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North Korea puts leader's uncle to death

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Is he also faking schizophrenia?

Interpreter explains bizarre signing at Mandela memorial by saying he saw angels, but expert says she's never seen such gestures in psychotic signers PAGE 14

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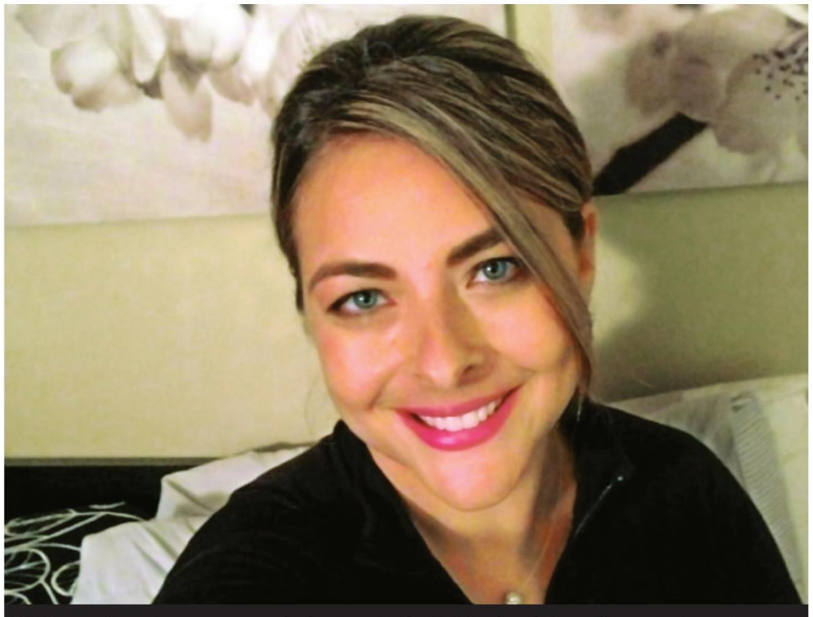
LIVE 88·5 FM

Why does this nurse have to go to U.S. for Lyme disease treatment?



CHEO nurse Dawn Lavarnway says she has to go to the U.S. for chronic Lyme disease treatment.
CONTRIBUTED

Denied. Canadian guidelines prevent doctors from giving treatment available south of the border

JOE LOFARO
joe.lofaro@metronews.ca

Like most Lyme disease patients in Canada, Dawn Lavarnway doesn't remember when she was bitten by the tick that gave her the crippling illness — but she knows when she found out Canada's health system wouldn't treat her for it.

The Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario nurse tried to book an appointment with an infectious disease specialist to get a prescription for chronic Lyme disease because her symptoms have persisted ever since her June 8, 2009, diagnosis. They include fatigue, chest pain, difficulty walking and mood swings.

In September, she received a letter from the Ottawa Hospital saying routine antibiotics for tick bites are not an option. The hospital said it follows the 2006 Infectious Diseases Society of America guidelines, which limits its treatment to a maximum of 28 days. Now, the 36-year-old is heading to the U.S. in January to see a doctor to get the long-term treatment she is being denied in Ottawa.

She suspects she contracted the illness on a hiking trip in Gatineau Park or during a visit to a petting zoo in Dryden, Ont., a couple years before her diagnosis.

"I feel like I've spent (13) years looking after other people working for a health-care system and when I need it, nobody will help me," she told Metro on Wednesday. "It's been a lot on me, my parents, my friends. I have no life. I don't do anything now because I have no energy. The symptoms are brutal."

The U.S. doctor she is seeing, Dr. Maureen McShane, told David Suzuki's The Nature of Things program in September that at least 635 of her 700 patients who visit her Plattsburgh, N.Y., office come from Canada.

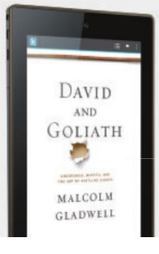
Lavarnway had her blood work sent to the U.S. last summer and a test came back positive for Lyme disease, she said. The Ottawa Hospital wrote to her saying it "strongly discourages" this "common practice by Canadians" because private American clinics do not follow Ontario testing standards.

"We will not consider positive results from these laboratories as being indicative of Lyme disease," the letter reads.

She's going anyway, and her friend Moriah Lepage set up an online gofundme.com fundraiser to help with travel and medical costs.

"They're just trying to do whatever they can because they can't give me antibiotics and they can't make it go away," said Lavarnway. "And they can't change the doctors' minds."

For more on the battle to bring the treatment to Canada, see page 6.



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NEWS

Lawyer shocked by judge's racial comments

Sikh cab driver. Defence protests judge's concern for other 'dark-skinned' cab drivers in sentencing

TREVOR GREENWAY
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An Ottawa lawyer says he was caught off guard at a sentencing hearing when a judge talked about the ethnicity of a Sikh cab driver convicted of kissing a female passenger last year.

Paul Lewandowski says he is considering an appeal for Jatinder Singh, 37 — sentenced to 30 days in jail Wednesday — on the grounds that his client may have been discriminated against, and what he believes were "massive discrepancies" in the complainant's account of events.

Judge Peter Coulson told a courtroom Wednesday that Singh's actions could give other dark-skinned cab drivers a bad reputation.

"The racial undertone wasn't present throughout most of the trial. To sort of bring it up as a sentencing factor of his own accord I think is something that we are going to have to examine very carefully on an appeal," Lewandowski told Metro a day after his client was sentenced.

He said Coulson initially remarked that Singh's actions would reflect on other cab drivers in the city, but then "went a step further to say the Sikh community takes a hit here, meaning the fact that one member of that community does something will reflect poorly on other people in that community.

"You don't hear that said about white people really, do you?" said Lewandowski. "You're a white guy, you did this and now other white guys have a bad name."

Lewandowski said he doubts the racial comments alone are enough grounds for an appeal, but combined with the inconsistencies in the victim's testimony, he sees potential.

"In all fairness, the witness herself initially said that he tried to kiss her," said Lewandowski.

"In another statement (she) said (he) kissed her twice, in another statement kissed her once and then in another statement wasn't sure how many times."

Singh was given 30 days in jail, which he will serve on weekends so he can still provide for his family. He has 30 days to file an appeal.

Man shot in the head drives to hospital

Ottawa police are investigating after a 23-year-old Ottawa man drove himself to hospital after being shot in the back of the head Wednesday night between 8:30 p.m. and 9 p.m. near Gateville Private, off Walkley Road. The wounded man somehow managed to drive to the Ottawa Hospital's Civic campus on Carling Avenue. Police say his injuries were not life-threatening and that he is in stable condition. MIKE CARROCCETTO/FOR METRO

Ottawa Redblacks GM Marcel Desjardins speaks to reporters Wednesday about Monday's CFL draft. TREVOR GREENWAY/METRO

Monday's draft holds Redblacks' future

The Ottawa Redblacks have only one thing in mind heading into Monday's CFL Expansion Draft: getting the best players possible.

The newest CFL team will be plucking players off current league rosters in an attempt to piece together a team that will be competitive when it first takes to the field next fall.

It's the bigger picture that is challenging, said Redblacks general manager Marcel Desjardins.

"I think the individual team decisions are pretty easy, it's more a function of how you piece it all together from one team to the next to maximize what you're getting," Desjardins told reporters gathered at a press conference Thursday.

Desjardins said the team is looking at three possible choices for quarterbacks that aren't protected in the draft.

Ottawa could land guys like second-string quarterback Kevin Glenn of the Calgary Stampeders.

The draft allows current teams to protect one quarterback; meaning Stampeders starter Bo Levi Mitchell won't be available.

"When you look at the list and see who is available, you are probably going to get one of each — a younger guy and an older guy. That's probably how it is going to break down," he said.

The draft will make the Redblacks team picture a bit clearer, as Ottawa will select 24 players from eight other CFL teams. TREVOR GREENWAY/METRO

Looking for tips

Cops publish video to help nab sexual-assault suspect

Ottawa police have released a YouTube video containing surveillance footage of events preceding and following an alleged sexual assault that happened in March, and they are asking the public to help identify the suspect.

The incident happened at the Greenbank Towers at 2600 Draper Ave., near the intersection of Baseline and Greenbank roads, at approximately 5 a.m. Police were notified in November and opened an investigation.

Police say a man followed a woman into an elevator, proceeded to expose himself once inside and then sexually assaulted her. Once the elevator doors opened, the woman escaped and ran toward an apartment.

The suspect is described by police as a man of "Middle-Eastern descent" in his 20s with a slim build, curly short black hair, dark eyes and a beard. He was wearing dark jogging pants, a dark sweater and a baseball hat and smelled of alcohol, police say.

JOE LOFARO/METRO

Police are asking for help identifying this man, suspected in a March 2013 sex assault. COURTESY OPS

Happy ending

Woman found

Ottawa Police fanned out Thursday to try to find a woman who was reported missing after she left a Clyde Road restaurant and didn't return home when expected. Police reported around 11 a.m. that Allison Butler had returned home safe and sound. METRO

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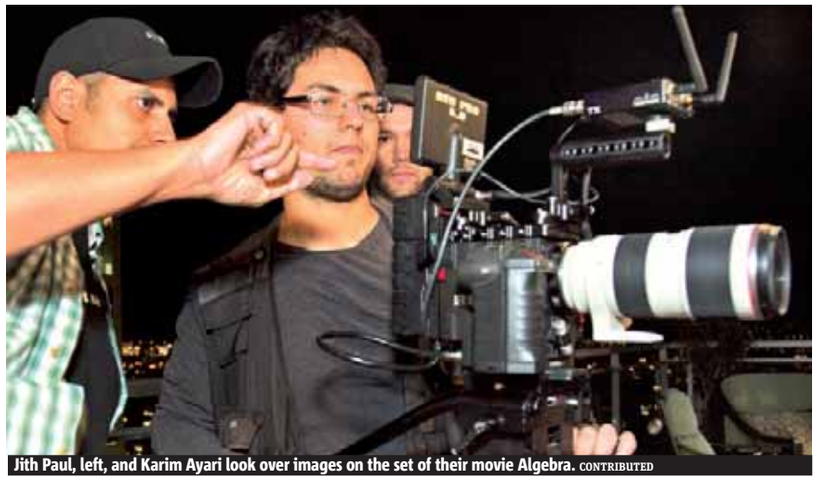

Jith Paul, left, and Karim Ayari look over images on the set of their movie Algebra. CONTRIBUTED

Local indie film site takes on life of its own

indiekoala.com. Initially launched to promote filmmakers' own flicks, site has burgeoning library of films from other local moviemakers

DENIS ARMSTRONG
ottawa@metronews.ca

Nothing motivates a filmmaker as much as the opportunity to have their film seen, which is a big reason why three local filmmakers created their own website for locally made independent films: indiekoala.com.

In July, Jith Paul, Ed Kucerak and Karim Ayari launched the movie-viewing website with five of their own films including Paul's first feature, Algebra, Thirteen Downs and Aryari's Perfect, but in the time the site's been up, it's become an online hub for dozens of other locally made features, shorts and documentaries, including many Digi60 award winners.

Kucerak's documentaries include Partners For Peace, How Can a Boy and The Secret Lives of Butterflies. In 2012, Ayari wrote and directed his first feature film, Thirteen Downs, and shot Algebra, which Paul directed. It won the best technical quality award at Digi60. Every title is available for viewing on the site.

Self-direction

"As a filmmaker, it's a constant fight between passion and paycheque. I live the life of an artist and be creative how I make money."
Jith Paul, co-founder of indiekoala.com

Like Netflix and similar streaming video websites, members screen movies on their computer. Features cost between $2 to $5, while older films are available for free.

"It's a grassroots business we built ourselves to pique interest in our films," says Paul, 41, who gave up a career as an electronics engineer in 2009 to make films. "Years ago, I would make hundreds of DVD copies of my film, drop them off at video stores and distributors, and wait for them to call."

Paul is currently filming his new short film A Clean Slate.

"I thought that by creating the website for our films, we'd expose our work to a wider audience but then we found that people want to see films made here. There are a lot of filmmakers in Ottawa and it's a maturing community. Ottawa is generating a lot of interesting independent film."

MusicOntario workshop. Don't believe the songs, music biz ain't money for nothin'

Music executives from across Ontario met at HUB Ottawa Thursday night for the MusicOntario workshop Making a Living Making Music.

SOCAN's Rodney Murphy, ACTRA RACS' Michi Waddell, Kelp Records' Jon Bartlett, PledgeMusic's Benji Rogers and Rolf Klausener from the band The Acorn were among the music professionals who spearheaded the lively MusicOntario roundtable panel brainstorming solutions to the financial issues facing independent artists, of whom there were plenty attending.

Among the key points made were the various opportunities for monetization including the emerging revenue streams online such as YouTube.

Kelp Records' Bartlett keyed in on two elements vital to building market share for your music: Market a personal brand with lots of concerts and personal appearances, and apply for government grants and unclaimed royalties.

Bartlett sees potential revenue in government-sponsored programs, unclaimed royalties and infrastructural opportunities, meaning government subsidies and bursaries.

Bartlett started Kelp Records as an Ottawa-centric indie label in 1994 breaking alternative artists such as Jim Bryson, The Acorn and HILOTRONS. Today, Kelp said, most sales are online, and Bartlett focuses most of his attention on artist management.

"The business isn't about selling CDs and LPs anymore," Bartlett says. "If you want to make a living in music, you have to network (and) get involved at conferences and showcases to build your career." DENIS ARMSTRONG/FOR METRO

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A closeup of an adult female tick and a nymph tick on a fingertip. Ticks cause called Lyme disease, an acute inflammatory condition characterized by skin changes, joint inflammation and flu-like symptoms. GETTY IMAGES

Canadian Lyme Disease Foundation wants new ways to battle the illness

Health. 'No evidence to support limiting antibiotic treatment to 28 days,' says charitable organization's founder

Jim Wilson, a former Lyme disease sufferer and founder of the Canadian Lyme Disease Foundation (CLDF), has no idea why Canadian hospitals still follow American guidelines from 2006 on how to treat the condition.

"They're very committed to the United States policy for some reason, rather than setting their own policy," he told Metro by phone from B.C. on Thursday. "We've tried to interject into the policy-making decisions (with) the patients and their experts' perspective, but have been refused at each time."

The charitable organization wants to change the government's perception that it ought to follow American guidelines, which many U.S. doctors don't even follow themselves.

"The States have enacted legislation allowing these doctors to step out of the grip of the college who impose these terrible guidelines," said Wilson, adding Canadian doctors who ignore the rules face being shut down by their provincial colleges of physicians.

"And there's absolutely no evidence to support limiting antibiotic treatment to 28 days. It doesn't work with disseminated or chronic Lyme disease."

CHEO nurse Dawn Lavarnway says the diagnostic method used by Canadian doctors is also flawed and Health Canada knows it.

The federal agency noted in the October 2012 issue of its Canadian Adverse Reaction Newsletter that current Lyme disease test kits have been found to have "limitations of sensitivity and specificity, particularly when used on patients with acute infection, which is usually easily treated with antibiotics."

The kit only tests for one strain of Lyme disease, B31, which Canadian doctors use to confirm a diagnosis.

"It's only a laboratory strain. They should be using strains from the wild and they should be using human-derived strains, not tick-derived strains," said Wilson.

JOE LOFARO/METRO

Private bill

Green party leader calling for national Lyme disease strategy

Part of Elizabeth May's private member's bill, C-442, aims to address the diagnostic deficiency that Health Canada acknowledged in 2012, but the proposed legislation won't be up for debate until next spring.

The National Lyme Disease Strategy Act calls for increased public awareness campaigns about the disease, better diagnosis and treatment, and a national strategy to find a cure.

"It breaks my heart to see families struggle with the costs of going to the U.S. to get treatment for family members with Lyme disease," wrote May in an Oct. 7 article in The Hill Times. "Surely sharing best practices to decrease the extent of Lyme, the reliability of diagnosis and the research work toward improving treatment regimes is in all of our interests."

JOE LOFARO/METRO

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Gatineau

Police seize pot plants worth over $230K, other drugs

Police in Gatineau arrested a 39-year-old man after they raided his home and found cocaine, ecstasy, marijuana and growing equipment Wednesday afternoon after a months-long investigation that led police to the man's home at 4 Dozois St.

Inside, cops found and seized a car worth $3,000, 231 marijuana plants that police say is worth $231,000, production equipment, hashish, dried marijuana, more than five grams of MDMA, about three grams of cocaine and 90 pills of ecstasy.

Alain Dupuis was charged with possession of narcotics and trafficking.

He was scheduled to appear in court Thursday.

TREVOR GREENWAY/METRO

Crime

Mugger stabs man with syringe

A man was stabbed in the arm with a syringe in a mugging Tuesday evening.

The man was walking in the area of Percy and James Street. Police say the man was then confronted by a male suspect who demanded money and then stabbed the man when he refused.

The suspect is described as Caucasian, 25-35 years old, five-foot-10 to five-foot-11, English speaking, short hair with an orange/blondish tuft of hair sticking out from under the hoodie he was wearing. Additionally, he may have two tattoos on his left hand.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Robbery Unit at 613-236-1222 ext. 5116 or Crime Stoppers at 613-233-8477 (TIPS). SEAN MCKIBBON/METRO

Anchor will be Keeping the tempo at benefit show

Max Keeping tries his hand at NAC Orchestra music director Pinchas Zukerman's job during a rehearsal in the lobby of the National Arts Centre Thursday.

DENIS ARMSTRONG/FOR METRO

Fanfair. Former TV news anchor will conduct National Arts Centre Orchestra's concert on Sunday

DENIS ARMSTRONG
ottawa@metronews.ca

His musical tastes may be more sea shanties than symphonies, but former CTV news anchor Max Keeping will conduct the National Arts Centre Orchestra during Fanfair, the annual Christmas concert in the lobby of the NAC on Sunday.

One of two free concerts the world-renowned NACO gives at Christmas, Fanfair doubles as a feel-good fundraiser for the Snowsuit Fund and the Ottawa Food Bank. Staff will be on-hand to accept donations of cash, clothing and canned food.

Keeping, who has never conducted an orchestra before, was at Thursday's rehearsal picking up conducting tips from NACO's music director Pinchas Zukerman.

"I'm totally intimidated," Keeping said, laughing like someone who was actually not intimidated at all about performing in front of an audience. "I know nothing about music, but I will do a jig."

This is terrain he knows well: He has MC'd Fanfair five times.

One of Ottawa's most recognizable faces, Keeping anchored CJOH's nightly 6 o'clock news from 1972 to 2010, and is one of the region's biggest fundraisers.

The day begins at 10:45 a.m. With a bake sale and silent auction before the hour-long concert begins at noon with violinist Kerson Leong, the KidSingers and OrKidstra, the Ottawa Regional Youth Choir and a Christmas carol singalong.

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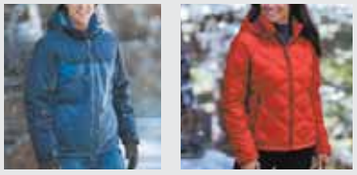

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Sears

North Korea executes Kim Jong-un's uncle

Pyongyang. News report calls him 'a traitor to the nation' and 'worse than a dog'

North Korea on Friday announced the execution of Kim Jong-un's uncle, calling the leader's former mentor a traitor who tried to overthrow the state.

The announcement came only days after Pyongyang announced through state media that Jang Song Thaek — long considered the country's No. 2 power — had been removed from all his posts because of allegations of corruption, drug use, gambling, womanizing and leading a "dissolute and depraved life."

The state news agency KCNA said a tribunal examined Jang's crimes, including "attempting to overthrow the state by all sorts of intrigues and despicable methods with a wild ambition to grab the supreme power of our party and state."

Jang was seen as helping Kim Jong-un consolidate power after the death of his father, Kim Jong-il, two years ago. Jang was the latest and most significant in a series of personnel reshuffles that Kim has conducted in an apparent effort to bolster his power.

There has been fear in Seoul that the removal of such an important part of the North's government — seen by outsiders as the leading supporter of Chinese-style economic reforms — could create dangerous instability or lead to a miscalculation or attack on the South.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

People watch a TV news program at Seoul railway station, South Korea on Monday showing Jang Song Thaek, centre, being grabbed at a meeting of Workers Party's Central Committee in Pyongyang the day before. North Korea announced Monday it had sacked Jang, who was long considered the country's No. 2 power. AHN YOUNG-JOON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Rob Ford. Reporter serves mayor libel notice

Mayor Rob Ford was slapped with a libel notice late Thursday for televised comments he made about a reporter, who said the remarks amounted to an accusation of pedophilia.

Toronto Star reporter Daniel Dale would not comment on his suit that also names Vision TV, which aired the Ford interview, saying an article he wrote for his newspaper would have to stand.

"I'm asking Ford to immediately retract the false insinuation that I am a pedophile. I am also serving Vision TV, which twice broadcast Ford's vile and defamatory remarks ... even though their interview was filmed days before it aired," Dale wrote.

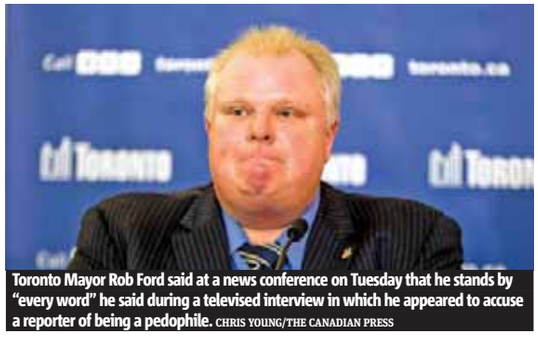
Ford said a day after the interview that he stood by "every word."

In the interview broadcast Monday, Ford told host Conrad Black that Dale had perpetrated the worst invasion of his privacy during a May 2012 incident.

"Daniel Dale is in my backyard taking pictures. I have little kids. He's taking pictures of little kids," Ford said.

Dale maintains he was writing a story about a plot of public land adjacent to Ford's house that the mayor wanted to buy, so he went to take a look when the mayor emerged from his home to confront him.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Toronto Mayor Rob Ford said at a news conference on Tuesday that he stands by "every word" he said during a televised interview in which he appeared to accuse a reporter of being a pedophile. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quebec

Mayor goes to police with corruption scheme

Quebec's anti-corruption squad, known as UPAC, is giving Chateauguay Mayor Nathalie Simon full marks for filing a complaint with police this past September.

The mayor was hailed as a hero Thursday as the unit announced four arrests in a corruption sweep in the working-class town south of Montreal. Police allege the four men were trying to corrupt Simon with money and personal favours in exchange for decisions that would lead to influential positions within the city's administration or to land being re-zoned for development projects.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Wireless networks

CRTC to see if telecom giants gouge little guys

The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) will look into whether big wireless companies are charging their smaller Canadian competitors too much to use their networks.

The CRTC says some of the larger companies are charging — or want to charge — smaller Canadian companies "significantly higher" wholesale roaming rates than they charge wireless companies in the United States.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Air Canada Express

Crew puts out fire mid-flight

Crew members aboard an Air Canada Express turboprop aircraft managed to put out an engine fire before returning to an airport on central Vancouver Island Thursday morning, says a Transportation Safety Board investigator.

Glen Friesen, the TSB's acting regional manager, said passengers saw flames in the plane's No. 2 engine shortly after the Dash 8-300 took off from the Nanaimo Airport.

"The crew extinguished the fire with the emergency fire bottles that are installed on each engine," said Friesen. There were no injuries. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Go to **Sears.ca/giftoftheday** to purchase today's deal.

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Anti-government protests continue in Thailand

A protester uses a pair of wire cutters to snap and remove barbed wire erected by Thai police over the fence of the prime minister's office in Bangkok on Thursday. Protesters waging a surreal political fight to oust Thailand's elected prime minister are trying to establish what amounts to a parallel government — one complete with "security volunteers" to replace the police, a foreign policy of their own and a central committee that has already begun issuing audacious orders. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Blinded Chinese boy receives prosthetic eyes

Recovery. 6-year-old boy whose eyes were gouged was successfully fitted with prosthetics that look and move like normal eyes, but don't restore vision

Guo Bin smiles on Wednesday as he shows a card he drew saying "Thanks" at the hospital. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Guo Bin — nicknamed Binbin — danced to music at a sendoff ceremony at the C-MER Dennis Lam Eye Hospital in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen, where he expressed gratitude and happiness more than three months after a brutal attack left him blind.

The prosthetic eyes look and move much like normal eyes, but they do not restore vision. Doctors plan to fit Binbin with navigation sensors next summer that would allow him to get around on his own in familiar places.

Police in the boy's hometown in northern China's Shanxi province say they suspect his aunt was the culprit in the attack, although they have not identified a motive. The woman has since committed suicide, and Binbin's parents have raised doubts.

On Thursday, the boy's mother said Binbin can put on his clothes, brush his teeth and climb stairs by himself, according to reports in Hong Kong media.

"He has adapted well and is smart," his mother, Wang Wenli, said before thanking the medical staff.

The attack on the boy horrified the Chinese public and added to outrage over violence against children. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vote for Goodness

We've been searching for goodness. Here are 5 stories of genuinely good Canadians making a difference in their communities. Have a read. Then vote online for the story you'd like us to share in our next TV ad.

Ethan
St. Catharines, ON

Sometimes, good things come in small packages. Ethan, a Pee-Wee hockey player from St. Catharines, ON, has been collecting used hockey equipment since 2009 and distributing it to underprivileged hockey players throughout Ontario and around the world.

George
Oliver, BC

Wherever help is needed in Oliver, BC, you'll find George. He spends his life spreading goodness in so many ways, but what's really special is the time and effort he devotes to growing fresh vegetables for others. Last year, he donated 1800lbs of veggies to the food bank.

Sharon
Brandon, MB

One person can fill an entire community with goodness. Sharon, from Brandon, MB, is in her retirement years, but she still works 5 days a week at her local soup kitchen. There by 6 a.m. every morning, she tirelessly cooks hot meals for 125-150 people from all walks of life.

Julia and Emma
Oakville, ON

Goodness runs in their family. Teen sisters Julia and Emma from Oakville, ON made it their mission to collect books for remote "fly-in" communities in Northern Ontario. Their charity Books With No Bounds has collected and distributed over 27,000 books.

Coby
North York, ON

This story proves that you can always make time to spread goodness. Coby leads a busy life in North York, ON, but he regularly visits a long-term home for the elderly. Through the joy of music and song, he, and a group of volunteers from The House, bring smiles and a little human tenderness to the aged.

Vote at searchforgoodness.ca

Voting period ends on January 03, 2014 at 11:59 AM ET. Limit of one vote per person per day. See www.facebook.com/shreddies for details.

Children run along a towpath between houses on April 2 in Qunu, South Africa. Nelson Mandela's funeral will be held in Qunu. CHIP SOMODEVILLA/GETTY IMAGES FILE

Village braces for Mandela funeral

Massive event. Final goodbye comes with major challenges for tiny Qunu

KIERON MONKS
Metro World News

The population of Qunu is just under 300, but a mass invasion is underway ahead of Nelson Mandela's funeral Sunday, when the Eastern Cape village where Madiba grew up hosts one of the largest events in South African history.

"There is a lot of people and a lot of disruption," said a spokesperson at the Nelson Mandela Museum, the largest building in Qunu, which has become the site of a marquee for the world's media.

Much larger temporary structures are being hastily constructed to host the ceremony and its 5,000 guests, with officials admitting work is behind schedule. Eleven venues in the local area will screen the funeral for those unable to attend, with up to 70,000 expected, and accommodation prices rising sharply across the region.

Roads leading to the village will be blocked, and the local airport in Mthatha will become a no-fly zone, reserved for around 100 private jets transporting dignitaries. "The military will be in control," announced municipality mayor Nomakhosazana Meth. "Everything is in order there, and we are ready to warmly welcome our guests."

Quoted

"Everything is in order there, and we are ready to warmly welcome our guests."

Nomakhosazana Meth, municipality mayor

Many world leaders and celebrities are expected to attend, including Charles, Prince of Wales, and Oprah Winfrey. More than 1,500 members of the media have been accredited. But residents of the village have claimed they are being prevented from attending the funeral because of the visitors.

On Saturday, a military aircraft will take Mandela's remains from Pretoria 900 kilometres away to the Eastern Cape. The funeral begins at 9 a.m. local time on Sunday. The ex-president will receive a Christian burial, but also the Xhosa rituals of his community with an address to his spirit.

Schizophrenia. Sign-language interpreter says he was hallucinating

The man accused of faking sign interpretation while standing alongside world leaders like U.S. President Barack Obama at Nelson Mandela's memorial service said Thursday he hallucinated that angels were entering the stadium, has schizophrenia and has been violent in the past.

Thamsanqa Jantjie said in a 45-minute interview with The Associated Press that his hallucinations began while he was interpreting and that he tried not to panic because there were "armed policemen around me." He added that he was once hospitalized in a mental health facility for more than one and a half years.

The statements by Jantjie also raise serious security issues for Obama, other heads of state and United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon who stood next to Jantjie as they made speeches at FNB Stadium in Soweto, Johannesburg's famed black township. The ceremony honoured Mandela, the anti-apartheid icon and former president who died on Dec. 5.

A South African deputy Cabinet minister, Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu, later held a news conference to announce that "a mistake happened" in the hiring of Jantjie. However, many questions remain, including who in the government hired the company that contracted Jantjie, how much money the government paid the company and Jantjie's own involvement with the company — and even whether it really exists.

AP journalists who visited the address of the company that Jantjie provided found a different company there, whose managers said they knew nothing about SA Interpreters. A woman who answered the phone at a number that Jantjie provided confirmed that she worked at the company that hired him for the memorial service but declined comment and hung up.

Quoted

"This does not look like anything I have seen in signers with psychosis."

Jo Atkinson, clinical psychologist and researcher at the Center for Deafness, Cognition and Language, on Thamsanqa Jantjie's signing

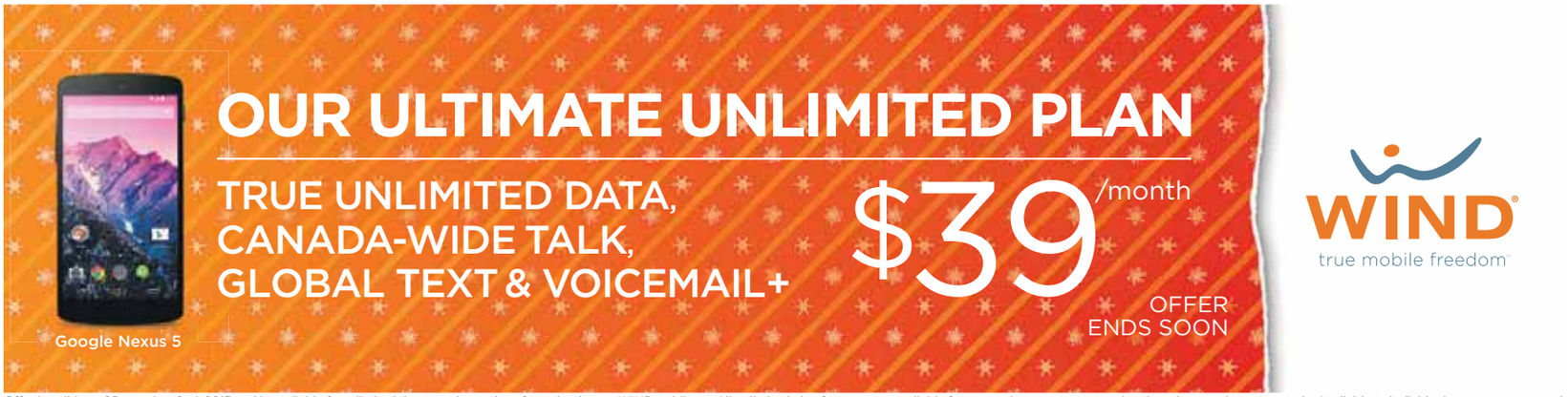
Government officials said they have tried to track down the company that provided Jantjie but the owners "have vanished into thin air," said Bogopane-Zulu, deputy minister of Women, Children and People with Disabilities.

She apologized to deaf people around the world who were offended by Jantjie's incomprehensible signing and said an investigation is under way to determine how Jantjie was hired and what vetting process, if any, he underwent for his security clearance.

A medical expert with University College London cautioned that Jantjie's unusual sign language didn't look like it was caused by schizophrenia or another psychosis.

"The disruption of sign language in people with schizophrenia takes many forms but this does not look like anything I have seen in signers with psychosis," said Jo Atkinson, who is a clinical psychologist and researcher at the Center for Deafness, Cognition and Language.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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WestJet free-gift video exceeding expectations

15 million views.
Airline went all Oprah on hundreds of travellers and got a big brand boost for its trouble

WestJet's gift-giveaway stunt has become a YouTube smash. SCREENGRAB

While WestJet insists its holiday gift-giving stunt that spawned a viral video wasn't intended to be a commercial in disguise, marketing experts say the Canadian airline's brand is getting an invaluable boost as the YouTube hit count continues to surge.

In the video, which surpassed 15 million views on Thursday, the airline hatches an elaborate holiday surprise for more than 250 travellers heading to Calgary on flights from Toronto and Hamilton.

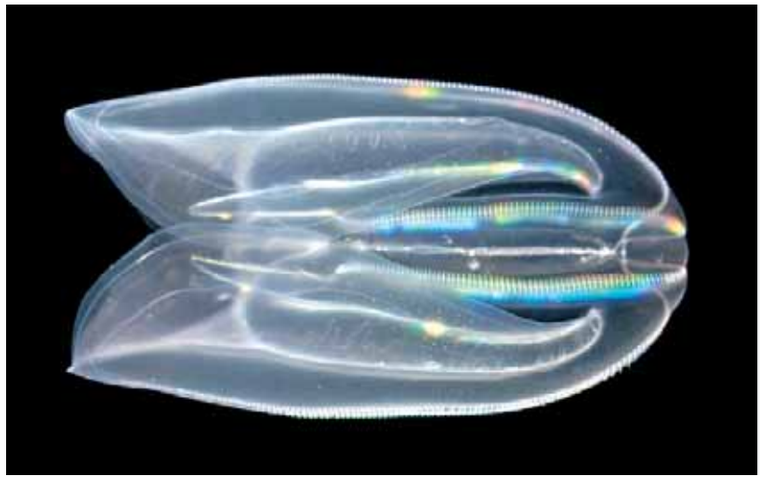
WestJet customers are seen stumbling upon a video kiosk that connects them with a blue-suited Santa Claus, who asks what they'd like for Christmas. A family asks for a big TV, a boy wants a tablet, and one man asks for socks and underwear.

WestJet staff then scramble to buy the gifts to fill those requests, which are wrapped and delivered via a luggage carousel in Calgary. The shocked reaction of the passengers as they realize what WestJet has done is a feel-good tearjerker.

"They pulled it off in stunning fashion," said Mitch Joel, president of Twist Image.

WestJet said it had hoped the video would generate 200,000 views.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Sponges not the oldest — it's this guy: Study

Sponges are getting squeezed out of first place in evolution. This image provided by the University of Miami and the journal Science shows a Mnemiopsis leidyi, a species of comb jelly known as a sea walnut, a plankton-eating creature native to the western Atlantic. A study of DNA research published Thursday in Science says comb jellies represent the oldest branch of the animal family tree. UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Britain

Being an 'incorrigible rogue' no longer illegal

England's repeat rascals can breathe a little easier tonight. Being an "incorrigible rogue" is no longer against the law.

Britain's Ministry of Justice said that the old-fashioned-sounding offence, created in the early 19th century, was one of more than 300 obsolete offences which had been scrapped over the past year.

The 1824 Vagrancy Act was aimed at the punishment of "idle and disorderly persons," "rogues," and "vagabonds." It defined an "incorrigible rogue" as a homeless person who violently resisted arrest.

Many such laws have been heavily amended since or slipped into obsolescence as they were replaced by newer legislation. The government publishes an annual account of new and expired offences. Thursday's report said that 309 old ones were scrapped and 327 were added. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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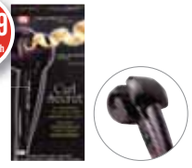

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SHOPPERS DRUG MART

Doritos execs dust themselves off, dream up more wacky foods

Next from the PepsiCo food innovation lab...
On the heels of Doritos Locos Tacos prepare for chip-topped wings and Mountain Dew sauces

Dorito dust may be the new salt for more restaurant chains.

PepsiCo Inc., which owns Cheetos, Fritos, Tostitos and other snacks, found success last year after teaming up with Taco Bell to create Dorito-flavoured taco shells. And it has since been dreaming up other restaurant dishes featuring its popular snacks.

The company announced Thursday that it struck a deal to serve its drinks at Buffalo Wild Wings. PepsiCo also said it would work with the sports-centric chain to create "unique menu offerings."

Buffalo Wild Wings CEO Sally Smith said she visited PepsiCo's food innovation lab in New York and was shown several dishes the chain might put on its menu. Ideas included Doritos as a crunchy topping for wings or tenders, or even just offering potato chips as a side dish. Smith said she was shown salad dressings and sandwich and chicken wing sauces that incorporate PepsiCo's sodas, including Mountain Dew. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

So crazy, it worked

Over at Taco Bell, Doritos Locos Tacos continue to be a considerable sales driver.

- Taco Bell CEO Greg Creed has noted that a major advantage of the tacos is that competitors can't replicate them — their success is largely tied to the popularity of the Doritos brand.

If PepsiCo has its way you'll be licking more of that red, sticky dust from your fingers as it builds on the success of Doritos Locos Tacos. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/TACO BELL

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Sticky fingers. Queen not amused by cops gobbling guests' nuts, court hears

A private investigator convicted of eavesdropping on the voice mails of royal staff told a tabloid editor that Queen Elizabeth II was annoyed because police officers ate the nuts laid out for Buckingham Palace guests.

The tidbit was passed on by Clive Goodman to Andy Coulson, then editor of the now-defunct News of the World.

Goodman's 2005 email notes: "Memo (has) now gone around to all palace cops telling them to keep their sticky fingers out."

The email was used as evidence at the phone-hacking trial of Coulson, former editor Rebekah Brooks and five others. All deny guilt.

An eighth defendant, Ian Edmondson, was dropped from the trial Thursday because doctors have declared him unfit to stand trial. Judge John Saunders said Edmondson would be tried once he has recovered. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Her Majesty the Queen reportedly went a little nuts after palace police officers ate nuts laid out for guests. PETER MORRISON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

TimmyMe app

Two years after Starbucks, Tim's tries tap-and-pay

A limited number of Tim Hortons stores are now letting you pay for a double-double with your smartphone.

Participating outlets in Canada and the U.S. will allow users with some BlackBerry 10 devices, iPhones and Google Android smartphones to pay with a TimmyMe app. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Share with up to 15 peeps

Filter who gets that latest selfie on Instagram Direct

Instagram has added a new feature that lets users share photos and videos with up to 15 people rather than everyone who follows them on the popular Facebook-owned photo-sharing app.

Called Instagram Direct, the feature is available for Apple and Android phones, CEO Kevin Systrom said at a news event in New York City. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Licence to sue

Beastie Boys aim to set it straight, countersue toy co.

The Beastie Boys are firing back after a toy company sued them over a video parody of their song Girls.

The two surviving members of the rap trio filed a lawsuit of their own Tuesday in Oakland federal court claiming toy company GoldieBlox unfairly used the popular song as a jingle to sell its products. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 93.98¢ (-0.42¢)

TSX 13,114.39 (-19.03)

OIL $97.50 US (+$0.06)

GOLD $1,224.90 US (-$32.30)

Natural gas: $4.37 US (+$0.03)
Dow Jones: 15,739.43 (-104.10)

THE GOOD PEOPLE WANT GANJA

THE METRO LIST

Mike Benhaim
metronews.ca

1 **Asian cockroaches.** A new species has been discovered in the Big Apple. Recently identified by scientists as Periplaneta japonica, a genus native to Japan, the insect is known in China and Korea for its ability to survive in cold climates. New Yorkers remain unfazed by news of another living creature trying to survive and breed in their city.

2 **Grounded.** Last Friday, Tom Wagner fell asleep on a flight to Houston. He was overlooked by staff and awoke to find himself trapped in the dark aircraft. He called his girlfriend and she notified the airline, who eventually rescued him. Counter-terrorism agencies expressed concern over the news but airport security assured them that Wagner had nothing in his shoes and did not have a bottle of water.

3 **Mama knows.** Mothers' favourite gift this year is the FiLIP smartwatch. A colourful wristwatch doubling as a phone with voice and GPS so parents can keep track of their kids at all times. American women are currently lobbying for this same technology to be used in wedding rings.

4 **Everything I (Think I) Am.** Kanye West is the world's greatest artist. Just ask him. He appeared at his Texas concert wearing a mask and someone shouted, "Take it off." After having security eject the paid-ticket holder, Kanye cleared up any possibility of mistaken identity by declaring his full name. "I'm Kanye-mothaf–in-West!" he said. And no one's arguing that.

5 **Grass is greener.** Hashtag "cannabis" has been trending on Twitter, and not just because weed-smokers repeatedly tweeted while forgetting they had. Ganja is making news because public appeal for legalization is growing, while staunch opposers recycle archaic myths of reefer madness as they guzzle their spirit of choice. "It's a gateway drug," they say. Yes, the gateway to procrastination and poor gastronomical decisions. And last I checked, neither one of those is criminal.

6 **Heading south.** U.S. private-equity firm Bain Capital has managed to overtake one of our country's great national treasures: Canada Goose. Current president Dani Reiss says that the corporation intends to maintain the high standards for outerwear that his family worked hard to create, and that they will continue to be made in Canada. Oh good, so we still won't be able to afford them.

7 **Hallelujah.** Time magazine's Person of the Year goes to Pope Francis! The people's pontiff was chosen for refocusing the church away from condemnation and back to basics like mercy, compassion and maybe even smoking weed.

8 **This week in music.** On Dec. 12, 1957, rock 'n' roll icon Jerry Lee Lewis, who was still married to his first wife, secretly wed his 13-year-old second cousin Myra Gale Brown. This "degenerate trifecta" raised interesting public debate about which was more disturbing: the bigamy, the incest or the statutory rape. Now, that's what I call some Great Balls of Fire.

Follow The Metro List on Twitter @TheMetroList

ZOOM

Burglary — it's monkey business

CYRIL RUOSO/MINDEN PICTURES/SOLENT NEWS

Baboons raid apartment for food

These baboons show they really are cheeky monkeys by breaking into an apartment, stealing food and parading their loot, including a giant teddy bear. Around 10 chacma baboons clambered into the third-floor flat in Cape Town, South Africa, and wreaked havoc, after one of their accomplices managed to get the window open. METRO

Photog says

"I am quite used to working with monkeys but I was amazed. When they came out with a giant teddy bear, I was even more astonished."

Cyril Ruoso, wildlife photographer, 43, from France

Loss of habitat leads to urban raid

Due to loss of natural habitat, baboons on the Cape Peninsula are adapting to human environment, entering urban areas in search of food.

"The intimidation that the big males employ has become physical and my young son no longer feels safe in the house," says Pierrer de Villiers, who lives in the town of Scarborough on the peninsula. METRO

A baboon escapes with a teddy bear. SOLENT NEWS

Clickbait

IRENE KUAN
irene.kuan@metronews.ca

CONTRIBUTED

The festive season is in full swing, which means there is an overwhelming amount of holiday indulgence and selfie-snapping. Here are some apps that can help you look flawless, albeit not so natural, in photos.

Facetune:

For $2.99, this photo-editing app for iPhone and iPad is the perfect tool to help you achieve a professional-looking, polished photo. Options include a function to smooth the appearance of wrinkles. Smooth not enough? There's a "smoother" option, too.

Pixtr:

Use this free app to instantly perfect your photos. Pixtr can automatically correct face symmetry and remove blemishes and wrinkles. It can work with solo images, as well as group shots, personalizing results for each subject.

Beauty Camera:

This free photo-editing app for Android is designed to make you look beautiful. Say there's no good light in the room for a photo — no worries! Beauty Camera can instantly change the lighting and tonal details in the photo. You can also compare the effects with the original photo.

Twitter

@metropicks asked: A Vancouver bus driver isn't allowed to wear a Santa suit because it's against uniform policy. Should he be allowed?

@TrentRedekop: will it help him pick us up on time?

@EthanDR: "He might not be identifiable as the transit operator" ... umm he's the one driving the bus #IDENTIFIED!

Follow @metropicks and take part in our daily poll.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:
Send us your comments: ottawaletters@metronews.ca

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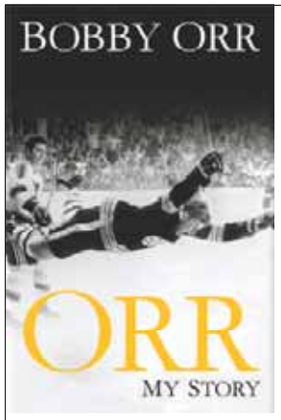

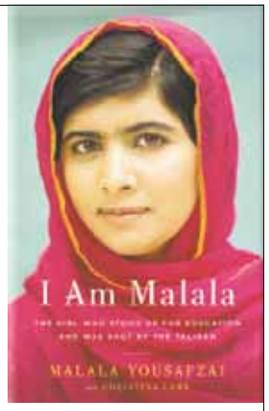

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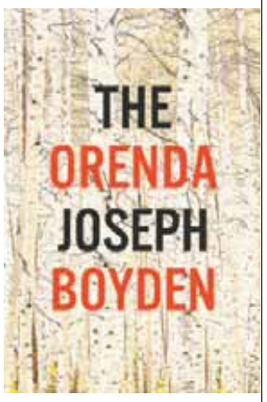

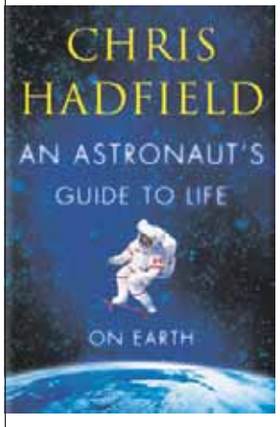

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Synopsis

Picking up where An Unexpected Journey left off, Bilbo Baggins (Martin Freeman) and Gandalf (Ian McKellen) join with Thorin Oakenshield (Richard Armitage) and his army of 12 dwarves. Their goal is to traverse Mirkwood, Esgaroth and Dale to locate the fire-breathing dragon Smaug who hoards the wealth of the Lonely Mountain. On the way they battle giant spiders, make a deal with Bard the bowman (Luke Evans), the descendant of the original Lord of Dale, and some helpful and not-so-helpful elves (including a good lookin' and deadly She-Elf played by Evangeline Lilly).

- Richard: ●●●●○
- Mark: ●●○○○

The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug is more of an Unexpected Journey — only one that doesn't really go anywhere. HANDOUT

Reel Guys

RICHARD CROUSE AND MARK BRESLIN

This Hobbit is hobbling

The Desolation of Smaug. J.R.R. Tolkien fans will surely geek out on the latest installment but one of the Reel Guys couldn't care less about the film

Richard: Mark, despite the sense of mild confusion I felt as I tried to piece the story together, I really enjoyed The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug. It took a lot of backstory to get to the fifth film based on Middle-earth and its inhabitants and it will help if you know your Shire from your Sauron or your Skin Changers.

But having said that, Peter Jackson has crafted a great action adventure with the same consistency of tone, style and spirit that runs through the LOTR and Hobbit movies. They feel like story shards chipped off the same block.

Mark: Richard, there are two kinds of people in this world — those who admire and enjoy the work of J.R.R. Tolkien, and those who are repelled by his neo-medieval, Druidic nonsense.

You can guess which camp I fall into. I sat through the Rings trilogy under great duress, and skipped the first Hobbit entirely. So the only question was how much I would loathe this picture. The good news is: not that much. True, the entire movie and everyone in it needs a haircut, but the set pieces worked, especially the barrel escape down the river and the entire dragon sequence. But the movie felt so long I could have flown to Tokyo for dinner and gotten back in time for the end credits.

RC: I think fans will find the length just about right… non-fans, maybe not so much. This one worked for me. There's a Richard Attenborough old school epicness about it. It is about good and evil without troubling nuance or anti-heroes.

Perhaps because Englishman Tolkien penned these action adventure stories during the Second World War when evil was clear-cut, his books are ripe with allegory but straightforward in their approach to morality and good vs. evil.

MB: A good point, but maybe it's precisely that serious, hectoring tone that always turned me off. Evangeline Lilly, on the other hand, did not turn me off — quite the opposite.

She really holds the screen even if her ears need cosmetic surgery. But the ending — a cliffhanging cheat, if you ask me — elicited a collective groan from the audience and made the experience feel incomplete. Did you like the dark look of the picture?

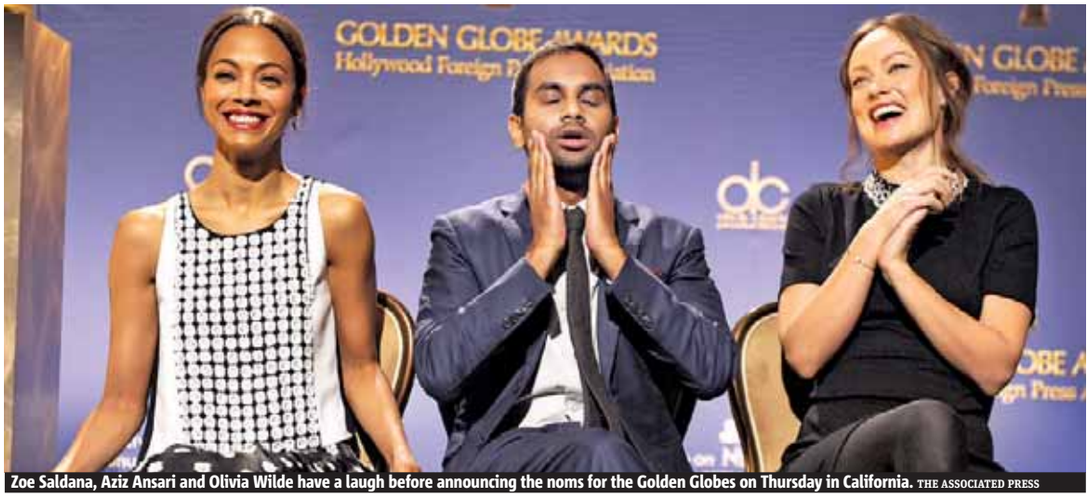
RC: I did like the look. It's darker in tone than the Hobbit books for sure, but I thought it suited Peter Jackson's take on the story. I also liked the Walking Dead style battle scenes — lots of arrows in heads.

MB: I kept hoping for someone to show up with a gun and put them all out of my misery.

Lots of talent, but little gold to go around

Golden Globes noms. It's a crowded field and the Hollywood Foreign Press doesn't seem to know what funny is

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood



Zoe Saldana, Aziz Ansari and Olivia Wilde have a laugh before announcing the noms for the Golden Globes on Thursday in California. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Awards season is officially here, thanks to the announcements of the Golden Globe nominations, and the best word to describe this year's crop is crowded. So crowded, in fact, that some heavy hitters have been almost left out.

Steve McQueen's 12 Years a Slave is still considered the lead favourite, with nominations for the film itself, director McQueen, stars Chiwetel Ejiofor, Michael Fassbender and Lupita Nyong'o, screenwriter John Ridley and composer Hans Zimmer.

But with such a crowded year it's easy for votes to get split. At least McQueen doesn't have to worry about David O. Russell's nomination-heavy American Hustle until the Oscars, as the Hollywood Foreign Press (HFPA) have placed it in the musical or comedy category (see sidebar).

Though it earned several nominations earlier in the week from the Screen Actors Guild, Lee Daniels' the Butler didn't garner a mention — not even for Oprah Winfrey, despite the HFPA's starstruck reputation. And while Martin Scorsese's Wolf of Wall Street nabbed nominations for the film and star Leonardo DiCaprio, it didn't make the cut in any other major category. Sorry, Scorsese.

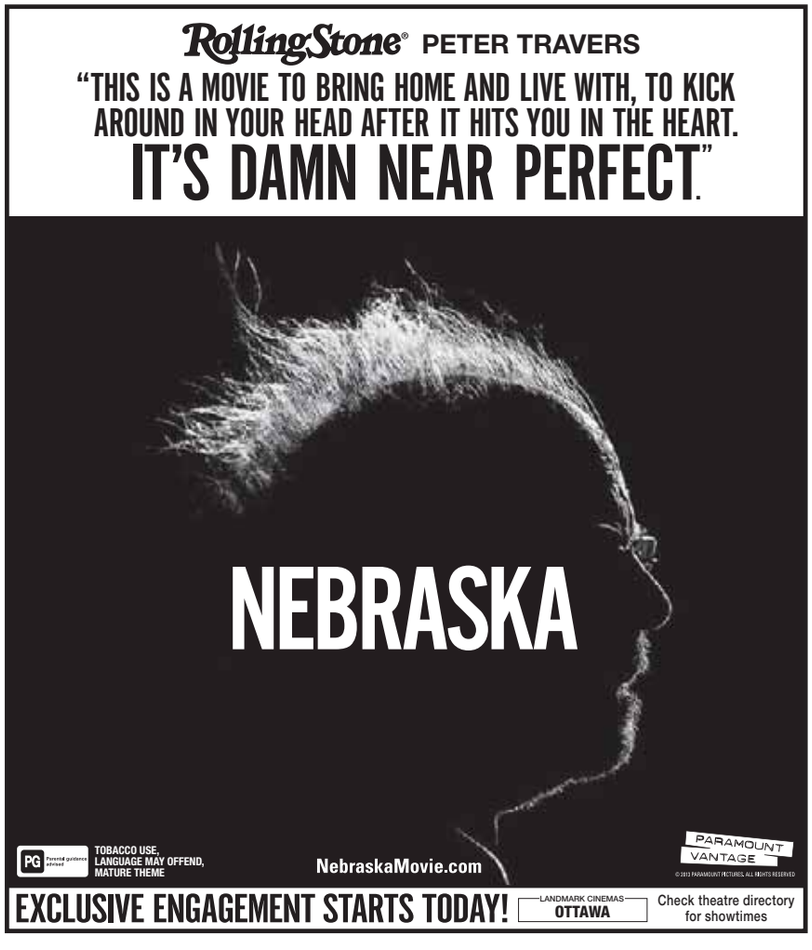
Ejiofor, Idris Elba and Julia Louis-Dreyfus will be pulling double duty come the night of the awards, with nominations in both the film and television categories. And ceremony co-host Amy Poehler might have to take a break to make an acceptance speech, as she's up for her work on Parks and Recreation.

But what's most noteworthy about the television nominations is what and who didn't get nominated. The HFPA obviously didn't respond to the most recent season of Mad Men, as the series didn't score a single nod. Neither did HBO's Game of Thrones or Showtime's Homeland. And while Downton Abbey earned a nomination for the series itself, none of the cast — not even Maggie Smith — warranted a mention.

The Golden Globes will be awarded during a televised ceremony Jan. 12, four days before the Academy Awards nominations are announced.

That's not funny!

The HFPA is earning more than the usual amount of criticism this year for its musical or comedy film categories not really honouring musicals or comedy. Some of the films filling the top category — best picture musical or comedy (American Hustle, Her, Inside Llewyn Davis, Nebraska and The Wolf of Wall Street) shouldn't really be considered comedies, critics are arguing. Producers have been criticized in the past for positioning serious fare in the comedy category to increase a film's chances.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Nominations

- **Best Motion Picture Drama.** 12 Years a Slave; Captain Phillips; Gravity; Philomena; Rush
- **Best Motion Picture Musical or Comedy.** American Hustle; Her; Inside Llewyn Davis; Nebraska; The Wolf of Wall Street
- **Best Director.** Alfonso Cuaron - Gravity; Paul Greengrass - Captain Phillips; Steve McQueen - 12 Years a Slave; Alexander Payne - Nebraska; David O. Russell - American Hustle
- **Best Actor Motion Picture Drama.** Chiwetel Ejiofor - 12 Years a Slave; Idris Elba - Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom; Tom Hanks - Captain Phillips; Matthew McConaughey - Dallas Buyers Club; Robert Redford - All is Lost
- **Best Actor Motion Picture Musical or Comedy.** Christian Bale - American Hustle; Bruce Dern - Nebraska; Leonardo DiCaprio, - the Wolf of Wall Street; Oscar Isaac - Inside Llewyn Davis; Joaquin Phoenix - Her
- **Best Actress Motion Picture Drama.** Cate Blanchett - Blue Jasmine; Sandra Bullock - Gravity; Judi Dench - Philomena; Emma Thompson - Saving Mr. Banks; Kate Winslet - Labor Day

Taylor Schilling received a nom for her role in Orange is the New Black. CONTRIBUTED

- **Best Actress Motion Picture Musical or Comedy.** Amy Adams - American Hustle; Julie Delpy - Before Midnight; Greta Gerwig - Frances Ha; Julia Louis-Dreyfus - Enough Said; Meryl Streep - August: Osage County
- **Best Drama Series.** Breaking Bad; Downtown Abbey; the Good Wife; House of Cards; Masters of Sex
- **Best Comedy Series.** The Big Bang Theory; Brooklyn Nine-Nine; Girls; Modern Family; Parks and Recreation
- **Best Actor in a TV Drama Series.** Bryan Cranston - Breaking Bad; Lieve Schreiber - Ray Donovan; Michael Sheen - Masters of Sex; Kevin Spacey - House of Cards; James Spader - The Blacklist
- **Best Actress in a TV Drama Series.** Julianna Margulies - the Good Wife; Tatiana Maslany - Orphan Black; Taylor Schilling - Orange is the New Black; Kerry Washington - Scandal; Robin Wright - House of Cards
- **Best Actress in a TV Comedy Series.** Zooey Deschanel - New Girl; Lena Dunham - Girls; Edie Falco - Nurse Jackie; Julia Louis-Dreyfus - Veep; Amy Poehler - Parks and Recreation
- **Best Actor in a TV Comedy Series.** Jason Bateman - Arrested Development; Don Cheadle - House of Lies; Michael J. Fox - The Michael J. Fox Show; Jim Parsons - The Big Bang Theory

Great Odin's Raven! Ron Burgundy is back

Anchorman 2 brings its style, class and fine taste in scotch to theatres next Wednesday. CONTRIBUTED

Anchorman 2.

Will Ferrell swore he'd never make a sequel ... OK maybe just one

LIZ BROWN
liz.brown@metronews.ca

There's a stack of magazines sitting on the coffee table of Will Ferrell's suite at Toronto's Carlton-Ritz and as we settle down to chat in the plush chairs, the glossy one on top grabs his attention. He picks it up and flourishes his hand across its cover — a picture of a panda munching on a bamboo shoot.

"How apropos that there's a panda on the cover of this magazine, which was the big story in the first Anchorman. The panda story," he reminisces.

"It's too bad they're almost extinct now. But let's not talk about that."

Indeed. Time is of the essence and Ferrell's got a few more upbeat things to wax about — like Anchorman 2 and his whirlwind promotion tour.

Prior to touching down in Toronto earlier this month, he'd pulled a few Ron Burgundy stunts — co-anchoring a local newscast in Bismarck, N.D., and co-hosting the Roar of the Rings curling tournament in Winnipeg.

But it's all a labour of love for Ferrell, who together with his co-writer Adam McKay, once swore they'd never do sequels — a claim with an asterisk for one special movie.

"While we were adamant against (sequels), we would always have this kind of sidebar conversation where it was 'well, if we ever were to do a sequel one day, it would probably be Anchorman,'" he says.

The original Anchorman reached almost cult-like status when it came out on DVD nearly 10 years ago. For a time, its jokes were fodder for every armchair comic.

"People just started falling in love with this movie on a different level after repeat viewings," says Ferrell.

In Anchorman 2, Ron Burgundy and his reunited crew (Paul Rudd, Steve Carell, David Koechner) face a new decade – the '80s – with new challenges: a 24-hour cable news channel and – gasp — a female African American boss.

In terms of joke density, Anchorman 2 packs in as many as the first and even more cameos. Kanye West, Will Smith, Amy Poehler, Tina Fey, Liam Neeson and Harrison Ford are just a fraction of the big names in the film.

"That's the love people have for Anchorman. We kept hearing from people and had them reaching out to us."

Ferrell says they even set their sights on Brad Pitt, who he wanted to play Ron Burgundy's pretty boy nemesis — anchor Jack Lime — but when Pitt declined, Ferrell and McKay brought in James Marsden.

"We just did an informal read-through of the script to see how jokes were playing and Marsden read that part and we were like 'he's the guy,'" he says.

Ferrell adds the filmmaking felt more like a reunion party.

"Just being back in our outfits, everyone felt really sentimental and it was like, 'wow, we're actually going to do this again.'"

"It's cliché sounding but I don't know if I've worked more closely with any cast, the way we get along and how we have this shared sense of letting each other be funny all at the same time and there's no real competition.

"That's rare."

Quoted

"Just being back in our outfits, everyone felt really sentimental."

Will Ferrell on the crew reprising their newscasting roles in Anchorman 2

Anchorman app

Scotchy, scotch scotch

MIND THE APP
Kris Abel
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Anchorman 2: Scotchy Scotch Toss
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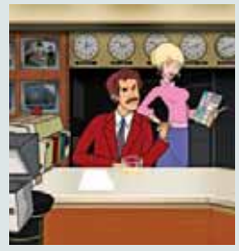
Are you "uh-mazing" or do you have "the motor skills of a very stupid baby"? Ron Burgundy (Will Ferrell) will judge in this pointless, scotch-flavoured game about tossing ice cubes.



Documentary

The Summit

Director. Nick Ryan

In August 2008, in a span of 48 hours, 11 people died while attempting to conquer K2, the second tallest mountain in the world. In great detail The Summit pieces together what happened on that failed expedition. But perhaps more importantly, it attempts to explain the motivations and mindset of climbers — of people who will risk their lives even after witnessing tragedy. In interviews with survivors, recreations and with dramatic footage and photos of the event, the director expertly weaves together many — and often differing — accounts to tell a complete and riveting story.

REGAN REID

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., DEC. 13 TO THURS., DEC. 19 TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

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The Angels' Share (14A) Wed 4:15 Thu 9:15
The Broken Circle Breakdown (18A) Fri 6:59 Sat 4:15 Sun 4:55 Mon 8:55
It's a Wonderful Life (STC) Tue 4:01 Wed 6:30
Sarah préfère la course (14A) Fri 4:45 Sat 2:01-9:05 Sun 2:45 Mon 6:45
The Summit (PG) Fri 9:25 Sat 6:45 Sun 12:30-7:20 Mon 4:30 Tue 8:45
Watermark (G) Tue 6:40 Wed 9:10

Canadian Film Institute
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The Moving Images of Monique Moumblow (STC) Sat 7
No Films Showing Today (STC) Fri Sun-Thu

Canadian Museum of nature
240 McLeod St.

Dinosaur Passage to Pangaea 3D (STC) Sat-Sun 10:30-1:10 Sat-Sun 11:15-1:50
Flying Monsters 3D (G) Sat-Sun 12-2:30-3:40 Sat-Sun 12:35-3:05
No Films Showing Today (STC) Fri Mon-Thu

Coliseum Ottawa
3090 Carling Ave.

Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (PG) No Passes Wed 4:50-7:45-10:40 No Passes Thu 1:25-4:50-7:45-10:40
The Book Thief (PG) Fri-Sun 1:10-4:10-7:10-10:20 Mon-Thu 4:10-7:10-10:20 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Delivery Man (PG) Fri-Tue 9:30
Frozen (G) Fri-Sun 1:25-4-6:50 Mon-Tue 3:50-6:50 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Frozen 3D (G) Fri-Sun 12-2:35-5:15-7:50-10:25 Mon-Wed 5:15-7:50-10:25 Thu 1:15-5:15-7:50-10:25
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) No Passes Fri 1:45-5:20-9 No Passes Sat 1:20-5:20-9 No Passes Sun 1:45-5:20-9 No Passes Mon-Wed 5:20-9 No Passes Thu 1:30-5:20-9
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 1-4:40-8:20 No Passes Mon-Wed 4:40-8:20 No Passes Thu 1:10-4:40-8:20 No Passes Fri-Sun 12-3:30-7:10-10:50 No Passes Mon-Thu 3:30-7-10:30 No Passes Fri-Sun 11:30-3-6:40-10:20 No Passes Mon-Thu 6:40-10
Holiday Inn (STC) Wed 7
Homefront (14A) Fri 12:40-3:10-5:45-8:20-10:50 Sat 1-5:45-8:20-10:50 Sun 12:40-3:10-5:45-8:20 Mon 3:40-10:35 Tue-Wed 5:30-8:05-10:35 Thu 1:35-5:30-8:05-10:35
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri 12:20-12:50-3:40-4:10-7-7:30-10:15-10:45 Sat 12:20-3:40-4:10-7-7:30-10:15-10:45 Sun 12:20-12:50-3:40-4:10-7-10:15-10:45 Mon 3:30-4-7:15-10-10:30 Tue-Wed 3:30-4-6:45-7:15-10-10:30 Thu 1:15 Thu 3:30-4-7:15-10-10:30
The Metropolitan Opera: Falstaff (STC) Sat 12:55
The Metropolitan Opera: Tosca - Encore (STC) Mon 6:30
Out of the Furnace (14A) Fri-Sun 2-4:50-7:45-10:30 Mon-Wed 4:50-7:45-10:30 Thu 1:20-4:50-7:45-10:30
Saving Mr. Banks (PG) No Passes Thu 7-9:50
Thor: The Dark World (PG) Fri 1:40 Sun 1:40
Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG) Fri-Tue 4:30-7:20-10:05 Wed 3:50-10:05 Thu 3:50
WWE TLC: Tables, Ladders and Chairs (STC) Sun 8

Landmark 7 Cinemas
111 Albert St. 3rd Floor
World Exchange Plaza

Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (PG) Dolby Stereo, No Passes Wed-Thu 3:15-6:15-9
Dallas Buyers Club (18A) Dolby Stereo Fri 3-6-9:45 Dolby Stereo Sat-Sun 12-3-6-9:45 Dolby Stereo Mon-Thu 3-6-9:45
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) Dolby Stereo, No Passes Fri 5-9 Dolby Stereo, No Passes Sat-Sun 1-5-9 Dolby Stereo, No Passes Mon-Thu 5-9
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) No Passes, Dolby Stereo Fri 4-8 No Passes, Dolby Stereo Sat-Sun 12:15-4-8 No Passes, Dolby Stereo Mon-Thu 4-8
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Dolby Stereo Fri 3:30-6:30-9:30 Dolby Stereo Sat-Sun 12:30-3:30-6:30-9:30 Dolby Stereo Mon-Thu 3:30-6:30-9:30
Nebraska (PG) Dolby Stereo Fri 3:45-6:45-9:45 Dolby Stereo Sat-Sun 12:45-3:45-6:45-9:45 Dolby Stereo Mon-Thu 3:45-6:45-9:45
Out of the Furnace (14A) Dolby Stereo Fri 3:15-6:15-9:15 Dolby Stereo Sat-Sun 12:15-3:15-6:15-9:15 Dolby Stereo Mon-Tue 3:15-6:15-9:15 Dolby Stereo Wed-Thu 9:15
Philomena (PG) Dolby Stereo Fri 3:50-7-9:30 Dolby Stereo Sat-Sun 12:50-3:50-7-9:30 Dolby Stereo Mon-Tue 3:50-7-9:30 Dolby Stereo Wed-Thu 3:50-7

Mayfair Theatre
1074 Bank St.

Carrie (14A) Tue-Thu 9:15
A Christmas Tale (14A) Fri 11:30
Drinking Buddies (14A) Fri 9:30 Sat-Sun 8:30
Elf (G) Sat-Sun 1
Lethal Weapon (STC) Mon 7
Lethal Weapon 2 (STC) Mon 9:15
National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation (STC) Sat-Sun 3:15
The Room (STC) Sat 10:30
Thanks for Sharing (18A) Fri 7 Sat-Sun 6
Wadjda (PG) Tue-Thu 7

Rainbow Cinemas
St. Laurent Centre
1200 St. Laurent Blvd.

About Time (14A) Fri-Thu 10:25-3:50-9:10
The Best Man Holiday (14A) Fri-Thu 9:55-6:35-9:05
Captain Phillips (14A) Fri-Sat 10:05-12:50-3:40-6:30 Sun-Mon 12:50-3:40 Tue 10:05-12:50-3:40-6:30 Wed 12:50-3:40 Thu 10:05-12:50-3:40-6:30 Open Captioned Sun-Mon 10:05-6:30 Open Captioned Wed 10:05-6:30
Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs 2 (G) Fri-Thu 12:30-2:35-4:45
Despicable Me 2 (G) Fri-Thu 12:15-2:20-4:25
Ender's Game (PG) Fri-Thu 1:10-6:45
Enough Said (PG) Fri-Thu 7:05-9:20
Escape Plan (14A) Fri-Thu 9:15
Free Birds (G) Fri 10:35-12:40-2:45-4:50 Sat 12:40-2:45-4:50 Sun-Thu 10:35-12:40-2:45-4:50
Last Vegas (PG) Fri-Thu 10:15-6:55-9:15

South Keys
2214 Bank St.

American Hustle (14A) Thu 7:15-10:20
Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (PG) No Passes Wed-Thu 10:40-1:25-4:15-7:05-9:55
Arthur Christmas (G) Sat 11
The Book Thief (PG) Fri-Thu 10:30-1:30-4:30-7:20-10:15
Delivery Man (PG) Fri-Tue 9:20
Frozen (G) Fri 10:40-1:20-4:05-6:50 Sat 1:20-4:05-6:50 Sun-Tue 10:40-1:20-4:05-6:50 Wed-Thu 11:40-2:15
Frozen 3D (G) Fri-Tue 11:40-2:15-4:55-7:30-10:05 Wed-Thu 4:55-7:30-10:05
Gravity (PG) Fri 12:20-2:35-5:10-7:35-9:50 Sat 5:10-7:35-9:50 Sun-Thu 12:20-2:35-5:10-7:35-9:50
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 11:30-3-6:30-10
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) No Passes Fri-Thu 10:35-12:40-2:10-4:10-5:45-7:45-9:15 No Passes Fri-Thu 12-3:30-7-10:30
Homefront (14A) Fri-Thu 12:10-2:40-5:15-7:50-10:20
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri 11:20-12:30-2:50-3:45-6:20-7:10-9:40-10:25 Sat 11:20-2:50-6:20-7:10-9:40-10:25 Sun 11:20-12:30-2:50-3:45-6:20-7:10-9:40-10:25 Mon 11:20-12:30-2:50-3:45-7:10-9:55-10:25 Tue-Wed 11:20-12:30-2:50-3:45-6:20-7:10-9:40-10:25 Thu 11:20-12:30-2:50-3:45-7:10-10:25
The Metropolitan Opera: Falstaff (STC) Sat 12:55
Thor: The Dark World (PG) Fri 10:50-1:40-4:25-7:25-10:10 Sat 1:40-4:25-7:25-10:10 Sun-Thu 10:50-1:40-4:25-7:25-10:10

Canadian Museum of civilization
100 rue Laurier

Flight of the Butterflies 3D (STC) Tue-Wed 10-12
Jerusalem (STC) Fri 11-2-6 Sat 11-2-8 Sun 11-2-6 Mon 2 Tue-Wed 2-6 Thu 2-8 Fri 4-8 Sat 4-6 Sun 4 Tue-Wed 4 Thu 1-4-6
Kenya 3D: Animal Kingdom (STC) Fri 12-3-5 Sat 12-3-5-7 Sun 12-3-5 Mon 12 Tue 11-3-5-7 Wed 11-3-5 Thu 11-12-3-5-7 Fri 1-7 Sat-Tue 1 Wed 1-7
L' incroyable voyage des papillons 3D (STC) Mon 10-11

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American Hustle (G) Thu 7-9:40
Frozen (G) Fri 12:50-3:10-6:50-9:10 Sat 10-12:50-3:10-6:50-9:10 Sun 12:50-3:10-6:50-9:10 Mon 6:50 Tue 12:50-3:10-6:50-9:10 Wed 6:50-9:10
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (G) Fri-Sun 12:40-4-7:20 Mon 7 Tue 12:40-4-7:20 Wed-Thu 7
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (G) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:40-6:40-9:30 Mon 6:40 Tue 12:40-3:40-6:40-9:30 Wed-Thu 6:40-9:30
Il était une fois les boys (G) Fri 1:10-3:30-7:10-9:20 Sat 10-1:10-3:30-7:10-9:20 Sun 1:10-3:30-7:10-9:20 Mon 7:10 Tue 1:10-3:30-7:10-9:20 Wed 7:10-9:30
La reine des neiges (G) Fri 1-3:20 Sat 10-1-3:20 Sun 1-3:20 Tue 1-3:20

Gatineau 9
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Dallas Buyers Club (13+) Fri-Sun 4-9:50 Mon 9:50 Tue 4-9:50 Wed-Thu 9:50
Le Démantèlement (G) Fri-Sun 1:25-7:25 Mon 7:25 Tue 1:25-7:25 Wed-Thu 7:25
Homefront (13+) Fri-Sun 3:50-9:05 Mon 9:05 Tue 3:50-9:05 Wed-Thu 9:05
Hunger Games: L'embrasement (G) Fri-Sun 12:45-3:45-6:30-7-9:50 Mon 6:30-7-9:50 Tue 12:45-3:45-6:30-7-9:50 Wed-Thu 6:30-7-9:50
Il était une fois les boys (G) Fri-Sun 12:30-1:15-3:20-4-6:45-7:30-9:30-10 Mon 6:45-7:30-9:30-10 Tue 12:30-1:15-3:20-4-6:45-7:30-9:30-10 Wed-Thu 6:45-7:30-9:30-10 Fri 11
Protection (13+) Fri-Sun 1:20-6:45 Mon 6:45 Tue 1:20-6:45 Wed-Thu 6:45
La reine des neiges (G) Fri-Sun 3:40 Tue 3:40
La reine des neiges 3D (G) Fri-Sun 1-7:10-9:35 Mon 7:10-9:35 Tue 1-7:10-9:35 Wed-Thu 7:10-9:35
Thor: Un monde obscur 3D (G) Fri-Sun 12:20-3-6:40-9:10 Mon 6:40-9:10 Tue 12:20-3-6:40-9:10 Wed-Thu 6:40-9:10
La voleuse de livres (G) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:35-6:50-9:25 Mon 6:50-9:25 Tue 12:50-3:35-6:50-9:25 Wed-Thu 6:50-9:25

StarCité Hull

115 boul. du Plateau

American Hustle (G) Thu 7-10
Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (STC) No Passes Wed-Thu 7:30-10:25
Arthur Christmas (G) Sat 11
The Book Thief (G) Fri-Sun 1-4-7-10 Mon 7-10 Tue 1-4-7-10 Wed 7-10
Frozen (G) Fri-Sun 12:15-2:50-5:25-8-10:35 Mon 8-10:30 Tue 12:15-2:50-5:25-8-10:35 Wed-Thu 8-10:30 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1:30
Le Hobbit: La désolation de Smaug (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 12:10-3:40-7:20-10:45 No Passes Mon 7:05-10:30 No Passes Tue 12:10-3:40-7:20-10:45 No Passes Wed-Thu 7:05-10:30
Le Hobbit: La désolation de Smaug 3D (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 11:40-3:10-6:50-10:30 No Passes Mon 6:40-10:10 No Passes Tue 11:40-3:10-6:40-10:10 No Passes Wed-Thu 6:40-10:10
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:45-5:20-9 No Passes Mon 9 No Passes Tue 1:45-5:20-9 No Passes Wed-Thu 9
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (G) No Passes Fri-Sun 11:30-3-6:40-10:20 No Passes Mon 6:40-10:20 No Passes Tue 11:30-3-6:40-10:20 No Passes Wed-Thu 6:40-10:20 No Passes Fri-Sun 12-3:30-7:10-10:50 No Passes Mon 7-10:30 No Passes Tue 12-3:30-7-10:30 No Passes Wed-Thu 7-10:30
Homefront (13+) Fri-Sun 1-3:25-5:50-8:15-10:40 Mon 8:05-10:30 Tue 1-3:25-5:50-8:15-10:40 Wed 8:05-10:30
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (G) Fri-Sun 12:30-3:45-7-7:25-10:15-10:45 Mon 6:45-10-10:15 Tue 12:30-3:45-7-7:25-10:15-10:45 Wed-Thu 7-10:15
Hunger Games: L'embrasement (G) Fri 12:45-4-7:15-10:30 Sat 1-4:15-7:30-10:45 Sun 12:45-4-7:15-10:30 Mon 7:15-10:30 Tue 12:45-4-7:15-10:30 Wed-Thu 7:15-10:30 Thu 1
Il était une fois les boys (G) Fri-Sun 11:30-12-2:05-2:40-4:40-5:20-7:15-8-9:50-10:40 Mon 7:15-7:45-9:50-10:20 Tue 11:30-12-2:05-2:40-4:40-5:20-7:15-8-9:50-10:40 Wed-Thu 7:15-7:45-9:50-10:20
The Metropolitan Opera: Falstaff (STC) Sat 12:55
Mission Noël (G) Sat 11
Out of the Furnace (13+) Fri 11:20-2-4:50-7:45-10:40 Sat 5:05-7:45-10:40 Sun 11:20-2-4:50-7:45-10:40 Mon 7:45-10:30 Tue 11:20-2-4:50-7:45-10:40 Wed-Thu 7:45-10:30
La reine des neiges (G) Fri-Sun 11:30-2:05-4:40 Tue 11:30-2:05-4:40
La reine des neiges 3D (G) Fri-Sun 12-2:35-5:10-7:45-10:20 Mon 7:45-10:20 Tue 12-2:35-5:10-7:45-10:20 Wed-Thu 7:45-10:20
Saving Mr. Banks (G) No Passes Thu 7:15-10:10
Thor: The Dark World (G) Fri-Sun 11:40 Tue 11:40
Thor: The Dark World 3D (G) Fri-Sun 2:20-5-7:45-10:30 Mon 7:45-10:30 Tue 2:20-5-7:45-10:30 Wed-Thu 7:45-10:30

Barrhaven Cinemas

131 Riocan Dr.

Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (PG) No Passes Wed-Thu 4:35-7:30
Arthur Christmas (G) Sat 11
Frozen (G) Sat 1:30 Sun 12:45-3:30
Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Frozen 3D (G) Fri 7:20-9:55 Sat-Sun 11:30-2:05-4:45-7:20-9:55 Mon-Thu 5:15-7:45
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) No Passes Fri 8:30 No Passes Sat-Sun 1:15-4:50-8:30 No Passes Mon-Thu 6:50
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) No Passes Fri 6:10-7-9:50-10:30 No Passes Sat-Sun 11-12-2:30-3:30-6:10-7-9:50-10:30 No Passes Mon-Thu 4:30-5-8-8:20
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri 6:15-7-9:30-10:15 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:45-6:15-7-9:30-10:15 Mon-Tue 4:45-7-8 Wed-Thu 7 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
The Metropolitan Opera: Falstaff (STC) Sat 12:55
Thor: The Dark World (PG) Sun 1:50
Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG) Fri 7:10-9:50 Sat-Sun 4:30-7:10-9:50 Mon-Thu 5-7:50

SilverCity, 2385 City Park Dr.

12 Years a Slave (14A) Fri-Tue 9:55
American Hustle (14A) Thu 7:40-10:40
Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (PG) No Passes Wed-Thu 12:40-1:35-3:50-4:40-6:45-7:35-9:50-10:25
Arthur Christmas (G) Sat 11
The Book Thief (PG) Fri-Tue 1:25-4:25-7:30-10:30
Frozen (G) Fri-Sun 11:35-2:05-4:40-7:15 Mon 2:05-4:40-7:15 Tue 11:35-2:05-4:40-7:15 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1 Thu 11:55
Frozen 3D (G) Fri 11:55-2:35-5:15-7:55-10:35 Sat 10:15-11:55-12:20-2:35-5:15-7:55-10:35 Sun-Tue 11:55-2:35-5:15-7:55-10:35 Wed 5:15-7:55-10:35 Thu 2:35-5:15-7:55-10:35 Sun 12:20
Gravity (PG) Fri-Wed 12:30-2:55-5:20-7:40-10:10 Thu 12:30-2:55-5:20
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) No Passes Fri 12:55-4:30-8:15 No Passes Sat 12:40-4:55-8:30 No Passes Sun-Thu 12:55-4:30-8:15
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) No Passes Fri 11:30-1:30-2:15-3-5:10-5:50-6:40-8:45-9:30-10:20 No Passes Sat 10:05-12:25-1:30-3-5:10-6:25-6:40-8:45-10:20 No Passes Sun 11:30-1:30-3-5:10-5:50-6:40-8:45-9:30-10:20 No Passes Mon 1:30-2:15-3-5:10-6:30-6:55-8:45-10-10:45 No Passes Tue 11:30-1:30-2:15-3-5:10-5:50-6:30-8:45-9:30-10 No Passes Wed-Thu 1:30-2:15-3-5:10-5:50-6:30-8:45-9:30-10
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug: An IMAX 3D Experience (PG) No Passes Fri-Sun 12-3:30-7:10-10:50 No Passes Mon-Thu 12-3:30-7-10:30
Holiday Inn (STC) Wed 7
Homefront (14A) Fri 1:45-4:15-6:55-9:35 Sat 4:15-6:55-9:35 Sun 3:10-4:15-10:30 Mon 1:45-4:15-10:30 Tue 1:45-4:15-6:55-9:35 Wed 1:45-4:15-10:30 Thu 1:45-4:15-6:55-9:35
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Fri-Sat 12:05-12:45-3:25-4:05-6:50-7:25-10:05-10:45 Sun 12:05-12:45-3:25-4:05-6:50-7:25-10:45 Mon 12:05-12:45-3:25-4:05-7:25-10:05-10:45 Tue 12:05-12:45-3:25-4:05-6:50-7:25-10:05-10:45 Wed 12:05-3:25-4:15-6:50-7:25-10:05-10:45 Thu 12:05-12:45-3:25-4:05-7:25-10:45
Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
The Metropolitan Opera: Falstaff (STC) Sat 12:55
The Metropolitan Opera: Tosca - Encore (STC) Mon 6:30
Out of the Furnace (14A) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:10-7:05-10
Philomena (PG) Fri-Wed 12:10-2:45-5:25-7:50-10:15 Thu 12:35-3:05-10:40
Puella Magi Madoka Magica the Movie: Rebellion (PG) Sun 12:55
Saving Mr. Banks (PG) No Passes Thu 7-10:05
Thor: The Dark World (PG) Fri 1:40 Sun-Tue 1:40 Wed-Thu 1:40-4:20-7-9:40
Thor: The Dark World 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 4:20-7-9:40 Mon 4:20-10:20 Tue 4:20-7-9:40
Tyler Perry's A Madea Christmas (14A) Fri-Thu 12:15-2:50-5:30-8:05-10:40
WWE TLC: Tables, Ladders and Chairs (STC) Sun 8

Landmark Theatres Orleans 6 Cinemas 3752 Innes Rd.

Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues (PG) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Wed-Thu 12:30-3:30-7-10
The Book Thief (PG) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri-Thu 11:45-3-6:15-9:15
Delivery Man (PG) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri-Tue 9:30 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital Wed-Thu 9:40
Frozen (G) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri-Tue 12:15-3:30-6:30 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital Wed-Thu 12:15-3:20-6:30
Frozen 3D (G) Dolby Stereo Digital Fri-Tue 12:45-4-7:20-10:15 Dolby Stereo Digital Wed-Thu 12:45-4-7:10-10:10
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Fri-Thu 12-3:45-7:30
The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug 3D (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Fri-Thu 1-4:30-8 Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Fri-Tue 11:30-2-3:15-6-7-9:45 Dolby Stereo Digital, No Passes Wed-Thu 11:30-2-3:15-6-6:45-9:30
The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri-Tue 12:30-1:30-4:20-6:45-7:45-10 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital Wed-Thu 12:10-4:20-7:45
Il était une fois les boys (PG) Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital Fri-Tue 1:15-4:10-7:10-10:10 Digital, Dolby Stereo Digital Wed-Thu 1:15-4:10-7:20-9:55

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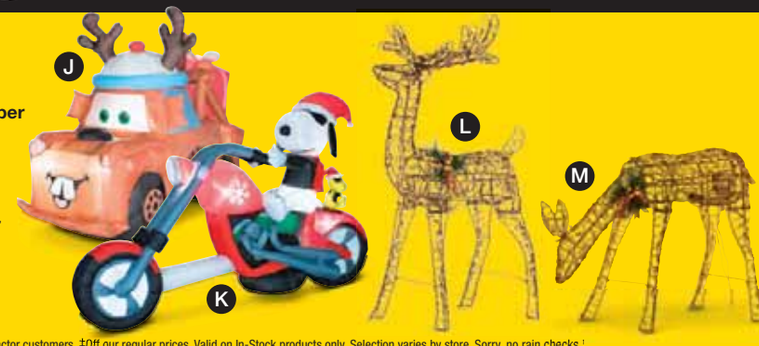
M. 34" Animated Grapevine Grazing Doe (1000660854) NOW $44.99 WAS $89.97



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Emma Thompson on the cusp of crotchety

Saving Mr. Banks.
Actress puts an interesting twist on a character that could have fallen to stereotype

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Emma Thompson plays the curmudgeonly P.L. Travers in Saving Mr. Banks, which opens next Friday. CONTRIBUTED

Just before our chat with Saving Mr. Banks star Emma Thompson, the British actress had wowed a press conference audience with a rather athletic entrance, vaulting herself over the dais — legs lifting high over the table — to get to her seat. The display was a far cry from P.L. Travers, her terse on-screen alter ego in Banks. But then there's a lot Thompson and Travers don't have in common.

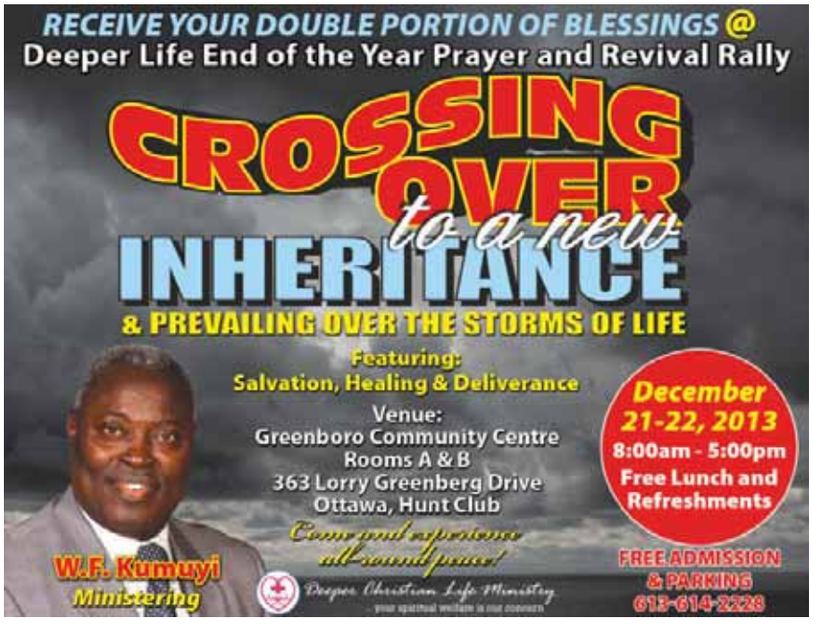
Before we start, I wanted to commend you on a fantastic entrance to the press conference.
Essentially what you have to understand is that spiritually I always carry a bladder on a stick and wear a cap and bells. I must, I think, in a past life been some sort of court jester. Because I seem to make it my aim in life to get a laugh. Any way you can.

And may I say, you're quite limber. I don't know that I could've managed that.
You can always go down and have a go later.

I found it a bit distracting in this film that you're far too young for the part.
Well, I'm not far too young. I'm 54 and she was 66 at the time. I also think I look very old — suitably and properly old. Travers herself liked to divide a woman's life into three main parts: nymph, mother and crone. So I said, "Why don't we just play her on that cusp between mother and crone?" There's still a kind of Eros, an erotic possibility for her, but you can see that it's never going to happen because she's too closed up. I think that's more interesting because you can see the possibility there, and you're not playing a crotchety old lady — who is rather more easy, because of the way that our world works, to dismiss.

What are your thoughts on that simplified trio of life stages?
I kind of like it. I think it's interesting, you know, with the seven ages of man being another format, if you like, for thinking about the stages of our lives. And I personally think everything is always happening at once, if you see what I mean. I think that we carry it with us all the time, so you don't necessarily leave anything behind. It's all coming with you.

You've mentioned a problem with trying to find heroic historical female characters to look to. How do we fix that?
There are many things you can do. There's two questions: What is heroism? Is it action? Does it have to be action-based? As I started to [work] in cinema I realized that I would identify with Marlon Brando because he was the one getting to do things and that women seemed to be the ones saying, "No, don't do that brave thing, stay here with me," I started to get very frustrated with that. And I remain frustrated with that because it's still a very common trope. I turned down role after role after role in my 30s which were the wife going, "No please! Why don't you think of us? Think of the children!" That sort of milksop, marshmallow-y stuff that wasn't even allowed to be inhabited in any real way. But the problem with female heroism is not one that's very easy to answer because if the actions are going to be the same as the male hero, then what do you do? You stick a gun in their hands. What's the point of that? It's the same old, same old. It's a real conundrum.



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Lesser-known Lennon film contains eerie premonition

How I Won the War. The 1967 satirical movie, by the director of Help! and A Hard Day's Night, is rife with absurdism and gags — but a line in the final battle scene is what's most memorable

MATT PRIGGE
Metro World News in New York City

On Dec. 8, 1980, John Lennon was gunned down by deranged fan Mark David Chapman. Lennon, like the Beatles, has been examined every which way, even idolized in a manner that can sand over his rougher edges.

Still, some of his output gets ignored, including much of his solo work; his by-many-accounts unlistenable art records with Yoko Ono; the couple's avant-garde films; and his books, packed silly with aggressive wordplay.

And then there's his acting. We don't mean A Hard Day's Night and Help! (Both are classics, although there's an argument to be made that Help! is even better. It's goofier and its absurd sense of humour, while owing more to director Richard Lester and writer Charles Wood than the Beatles, anticipates the likes of Monty Python.) We mean the only film in which he didn't play himself (or "himself").

That would be How I Won the War, made in 1967. A dense, kaleidoscopic and bracing satire, it was once again made by the team of Lester and Wood. Lester was a poppy stylist who married fast-paced imagery — he was called "the grandfather of the music video," which prompted him to half-jokingly ask for a blood test — to a bemused and skeptical world view. Wood was, like Lennon, an incorrigible wordsmith.

Despite dominating its advertisements, Lennon is only a supporting player in How I Won the War. The lead is played by Michael Crawford, the future Phantom of the Opera, who at that point was a go-to bumbling, stammering, pratfalling man-child.

The film was based on a satirical novel by Patrick Ryan, but Lester and Wood went further into absurdism. Here, Crawford's obliviously proper lieutenant takes his troops, who all hate him, to North Africa on a mission to set up a cricket pitch.

The plot is beyond loose, there to buttress a frankly exhausting stream of gags and Brechtian devices. Actors, among them Lennon's Gripweed, address the camera. The antics of the token clownish soldier (Jack MacGowran) — who, as it's gradually revealed, is actually totally insane — sometimes get fitted with a laugh track, decades before Oliver Stone did the same thing in Natural Born Killers.

Chilling scene

- The final battle in How I Won the War features a moment even more chilling than its makers could have imagined. Lennon's character is fatally wounded. He drops to the ground and, still alive and lucid, stares into the camera and says: "I knew this would happen. You knew it would happen, didn't you?"

Lennon was a supporting player in How I Won the War. CONTRIBUTED

Super casting news

Momoa may join Batman vs. Superman

Will Jason Momoa get the same harsh treatment from fanboys as Ben Affleck did? According to the Hollywood Reporter, the Game of Thrones star, who played Khal Drogo on the first season of the hit HBO fantasy, is in talks to join the cast of Batman vs. Superman, which is fast shaping up to be a sort of Love Actually of superheroes, at least in terms of cast size. Batman vs. Superman stars Ben Affleck as Batman, I must inform you in case you just joined the Internet today. Henry Cavill will reprise his role as Superman and newcomer Israeli actress Gal Gadot will play Wonder Woman. The production hasn't announced what role Momoa would play in the film.

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Handmade holiday cheer

Popular daytime TV hosts Steven Sabados and Chris Hyndman are getting into the holiday spirit and are ready to help add glitz and glamour to your holidays with these clever tips. For more holiday season DIY decor ideas, watch Steven & Chris weekdays at 2 p.m. on CBC. **ALL PHOTOS AND TEXT PROVIDED BY STEVEN AND CHRIS**

DIY deer head

The rustic charm of winter is timeless, yet seemingly effortlessly chic. Here's one rustic holiday look that you can create at home with simple supplies — the kids can help too!

- Deer head template (all the templates are available at cbc.ca/stevenandchris)
- Foam core/cardboard
- Spray glue
- Vintage wrapping paper/ wallpaper
- Utility knife

Method:
1. Download, print and cut out the template on your home printer.
2. Once you've cut out the template, trace the image onto foam core or cardboard.
3. Carefully cut out each of the pieces using a utility knife.
4. Find some great vintage wallpaper or cool wrapping paper. Spray glue the wallpaper/ wrapping paper onto the pieces of foam core/cardboard.
5. Carefully fit all the pieces together, mount on the wall, and you're done.

DIY snow globes

There's nothing more festive than holiday decor that offers a touch of retro fun. Spread the holiday cheer at your next dinner party with these place card snow globes.

- Silicone glue
- Small holiday decor items
- Small sisal trees
- Small plastic stars
- Mason jars
- Acetate paper
- Oil based marker
- Glycerin
- Foam
- Utility knife
- Cutting mat
- Glue gun

Method:
1. Using the Mason jar, make a template on the foam and cut out small foam pucks.
2. Score the inside of the lid with sandpaper.
3. Glue the Styrofoam pucks to the lid and then glue the small holiday figurines and sisal trees.
4. Cut out a small piece of acetate and write your guests' name on it. Glue the acetate to a plastic star and the star to the tree.
5. Fill the jar with water and a touch of glycerin. Add glitter.
6. Insert the scene into the jar after it has set. We recommend 24 hours. Screw lid on tight, turn upside down and shake.

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Holiday party invites

These fun and interactive ornament invites are a playful way for your guests to get all the details they will need for your next holiday party.

- Card stock paper
- Colourful paper
- A printer/computer
- Clear ornaments (found at local craft store)
- Pencil
- Ribbon
- Box: card stock, glue gun, cellophane
- Utility knife, cutting mat

Method:
1. On your computer, make a document of all of your party information. Make sure each sentence is separated.
2. Cut the sentences with a utility knife to make strips. Curl the pieces with a pencil.
3. Carefully remove the cap from your glass ornament and fill the ornament with the curls.
4. Finish with a ribbon and a gift tag that instructs guests to find out the details inside.

Golden apple holiday cocktail

Toast the season with one of our favourite holiday cocktails.

- Raw sugar
- 1.5 oz brandy
- 0.5oz Goldschlager
- Apple cider
- Ice
- Sparkling wine

Method:
1. Wet the rim of your champagne flute with lemon and dip into a shallow bowl of raw sugar.
2. Fill a shaker with ice. Add 1.5 oz brandy, 0.5 oz Goldschlager and apple cider. Shake well and pour into glass. Top with sparkling wine and enjoy!

it's perfect.

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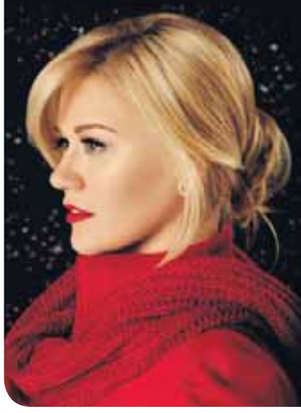

The holiday album features brand new instant-classics such as the first single, "Underneath The Tree" and title track, "Wrapped In Red" as well as Christmas favourites, "Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas," "Blue Christmas," "Run Run Rudolph," "Please Come Home For Christmas" and many more!

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Book in some time for holiday reading

Brrrr. It's time for all good children to curl up with a good book featuring snow. Here are eight to get you started or pass on to gifters.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

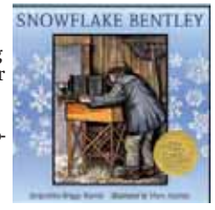
The Snowy Day — Ezra Jack Keats

Reprint edition from Puffin. This 1963 Caldecott Medal winner is the tranquil story of a city boy named Peter who bundles up for crunchy outdoor adventures after discovering it snowed overnight. Cutouts, watercolours and the Brooklyn-born creator's classic collage work. It's considered the first full-colour picture book to feature an African-American protagonist.

Snow — Uri Shulevitz

Reprint edition from Square Fish. First out in 1998. A hopeful "boy with dog" lives in a great, grey city inhabited by doubtful grown-ups transformed with the season's first snowflake. It earned Shulevitz, who survived the bombing of Warsaw as a boy, a Caldecott Honor and may be just the thing to cheer up a modern-day "grandfather with beard" who utters: "It's only a snowflake."

Snowflake Bentley — Jacqueline Briggs Martin



Reprint edition from HMH Books for Young Readers. Another Caldecott Medal winner, this one was also first published in 1998. It tells the story of Vermont's Wilson "Snowflake" Bentley, a self-educated farmer who combined a microscope and an old bellows camera to become the first person to photograph a single snow crystal in 1885.

Frosty the Snowman — Steve Nelson and Jack Rollins

Illustrated by Wade Zahares, this retelling of the seasonal song standard features a trippy looking Frosty in black top hat and green mittens. Includes a three-track CD with the song and others performed by Grammy winner Kenny Loggins.

The Snow Queen — Hans Christian Andersen

Illustrated by Bagram Ibatoulline, from Harper. The black crow and troll practically jump off the page in detailed, lifelike drawings by the Russian-born artist. The queen, with winged headpiece and icy eyes, lures young Kai to her frozen castle, where he nearly perishes from cold until his rescue by childhood friend Gerda.

Big Snow — Jonathan Bean

From Farrar Straus Giroux. Big Snow tells the story of an antsy young boy who awaits a big snowstorm. Botching chores with his mother when changing bedsheets, fluffy flour for cookies and sudsy soap bubbles while cleaning the bathroom lead him into a blizzard dream at naptime.

When it Snows — Richard Collingridge

From Feiwel and Friends. A picture book debut that features not only an eerie ode to mega-snow and various large icy creatures, but also a good word at the end for reading itself.

Ladybug Girl and the Big Snow — David Soman and Jacky Davis

From Dial Books for Young Readers. The latest in the bestselling franchise by this husband-and-wife team. Lulu dons her trademark all-red ladybug look, dotted wings and tutu over puffy jacket and snow pants to romp in a magical big snow with her dog, Bingo. Joined by her brother, they create lots of snow animals, including a nice likeness of her pet.

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Honoured as Billboard's woman of year, Pink says husband deserves some credit

Interview. A top tour, MTV awards and millions of units sold has the pop act flying high as the accolades keep rolling in

While she's excited her ballad Just Give Me a Reason is nominated for the song of the year Grammy, Pink says she believes her husband deserves some credit for its success. The track, which topped the Billboard Hot 100 chart for three weeks, is about holding on to a troubled relationship.

"It means everything because it's a conversation between lovers fighting the good fight and that's been our life," Pink said in an interview Tuesday, standing next to her motorcycle racer husband, Carey Hart. "Our family is everything to us."

The 34-year-old often details their rocky relationship in her music.

"At the end of the day I crawl onto his lap and complain, so if someone wants to award me for that, they should give him the award," she said.

Pink was in great spirits Tuesday in New York City, where Billboard named the pop star its woman of the year.

"It's been a long road," she said. "It's been a roller coaster and I'm on board for the rises and the falls of it all."

Pink's successful year includes a top-grossing international tour and awards, an MTV Video Music Award among them. The Truth About Love, her sixth album released last year, has sold 1.8 million units.

Just Give Me a Reason, which has sold 4 million tracks and features Nate Ruess of fun., is also nominated for best pop duo or group performance at the Jan. 26 Grammy Awards.

Pink, who has won four Grammys, said being up for the coveted song of the year is unreal.

"That's a new thing for me," she said. "It's a pinch-me moment. I'm afraid to cross the street."

Her hit will battle anthems from Katy Perry, Bruno Mars, Lorde and Macklemore & Ryan Lewis.

But at the Billboard event, camaraderie was key: Pink congratulated R&B singer Janelle Monae, who was honoured as music's rising star, while sister duo Tegan and Sara and Scottish band Chvrches performed. Debbie Harry, Kimberly Perry of the Band Perry, Andy Cohen, Matt Lauer and Melanie Fiona attended the event.

Pink's The Truth About Love Tour wraps Jan. 31 in Las Vegas.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pink performs during her The Truth About Love Tour. It wraps up Jan. 31 in Las Vegas.. HANDOUT

Who listens to the radio?

SOUND CHECK
Alan Cross
scene@metronews.ca

Here are three more examples of stuff you'll never, ever hear played over the airwaves

I'm Not a Young Man Anymore – The Velvet Underground

It was only performed live once and never turned up on any bootlegs. From the 45th anniversary reissue of White Light/White Heat. One needs to hear it to believe it.

Sweet Child O' Mine – Some three year-old kid

You'll be blown away by this kid playing along to Gun N' Roses. To be that coordinated and musical at age three is almost alien.

Krampus Carol – Craterface

Given that the song is based on a mythical Satan-like creature who punished naughty children at Christmastime, this isn't your grandma's Christmas carol.

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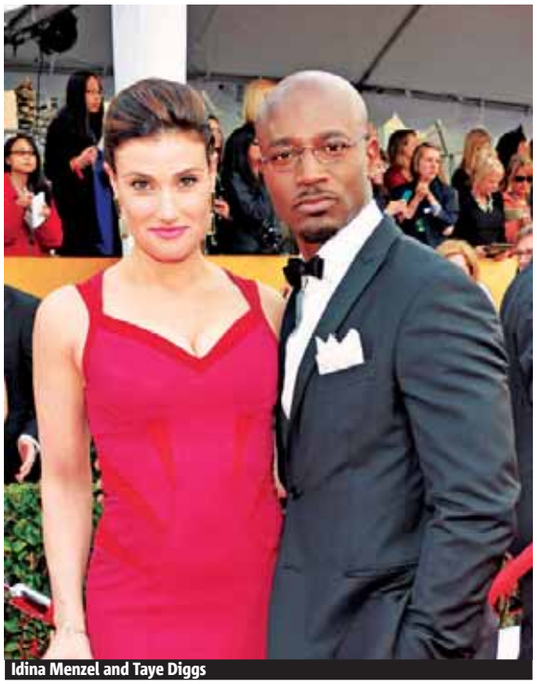
METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Madonna. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Madge splits with (much) younger beau

Madonna has split up with boyfriend Brahim Zaibat after three years of dating, the singer's rep confirms to Us Weekly. "It ran its course," a source says. "They were dancing and working together all the time, and then they barely saw each other." Madonna first started dating the then-25-year-old dancer in 2010 before hiring him on as a backup dancer for her 2012 world tour.



Idina Menzel and Taye Diggs

Taye and Idina will now pay twice the Rent

Taye Diggs and Idina Menzel are splitting up after nearly 11 years of marriage, according to People magazine. The actors, who first met in the original Broadway cast of Rent in 1995, "have jointly decided to separate at this time," their rep says. "Their primary focus and concern is for their son. We ask that you respect their privacy at this time."

Barron Hilton beating

Paris-Lindsay smackdown still has legs

It looks like Lindsay Lohan might not be in the clear just yet for the alleged beating of Barron Hilton in Miami last week, as the hotel heir — and younger brother to Paris Hilton — had his lawyer reach out to Miami Beach police to discuss their investigation, according to Radar Online.

"A meeting is being scheduled for Mr. Hilton to give a formal statement about the incident," a police spokesman says. Hilton reportedly wants Lohan's friend Ray LeMoine charged for the attack, but he'd initially backed off. "He has been made aware that there are incriminating photos that, if released, could tell a very different side of what took place," a source says. While Lohan hasn't currently been implicated in the incident, sources say Hilton believes she ordered LeMoine to beat him up.

Kevin Federline

KFed reproduces... again

Kevin Federline is going to be a dad again. The former back-up dancer and husband to Britney Spears is expecting his second child with wife Victoria Prince, which will make six kids total for Federline, according to E! News. Federline is also the father to Spears' two sons, Jayden James and Sean Preston, as well as a son and daughter with ex-girlfriend Shar Jackson.

Paul Walker

Investigation into Walker crash could take 90 days

Funeral services will be held this weekend for Paul Walker, but the cause of the Nov. 30 car crash that claimed the lives of the Fast and Furious star and his friend, Roger Rodas, could remain a mystery for up to 90 days as authorities investigate, according to the Hollywood Reporter. A police spokesman says that any reports at this point about what caused the Porsche Carrera GT Rodas was driving to strike a light pole, two trees and a street sign are purely speculative. A coroner's report has already ruled the deaths to be accidental.

Twitter

@SethMacFarlane
And the award for most badass name goes to Randolph Mantooth.

@joeldavidmoore
If Justin Bieber just tweeted 'fart' would it break the internet?

@bobsaget
This is that loving time of year where you really want to be around the people who didn't screw you over.

As light as snow? The iPad Air is a hot tech gift this season — PAGE 34

Create lasting memories by reading holiday books with the family — PAGE 36

Games will delight finding the latest releases under the tree — PAGE 41

12 shopping days left

GORILLAIMAGES/SHUTTERSTOCK

HOLIDAY 2013 gift guide

For more holiday gift ideas, please visit holiday.metronews.ca

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All I want for Christmas

iPad Air — $519 and up

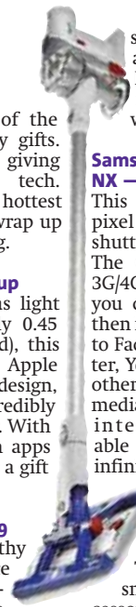
Samsung Galaxy Gear — $329.99

MIKE YAWNEY
For Metro

Electronics are one of the most popular holiday gifts. Don't disappoint by giving someone outdated tech. Here are some of the hottest gadgets to help you wrap up your holiday shopping.

iPad Air — $519 and up
A new iPad that is as light as air. Weighing only 0.45 kilograms (one pound), this latest tablet from Apple features a thinner design, smaller bezel and incredibly fast processing power. With almost half a million apps available this really is a gift anyone can enjoy.

FitBit Force — $129.99
Give the gift of healthy living. The FitBit Force tracks your daily activities such as steps taken, distance travelled, and calories burned and then lets you see them in real time across multiple devices. It tracks your sleep at night and wakes you up with a silent alarm.



Samsung Galaxy NX — $1,599
This impressive 20.3-megapixel camera will stun the shutterbug on your list. The Galaxy NX packs 3G/4G plus Wi-Fi so you can snap a pic, then instantly share to Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and other social media. With interchangeable lenses, you get infinite imaging possibilities.

iPhone 5s — $719 (no contract)
The world's first 64-bit smartphone. Faster processor, better graphical capabilities and a much better camera are just a few of the features that make this smartphone stand out from the pack. Plus, a TouchID scanner keeps your device locked using your fingerprint as the key.

Samsung Galaxy Note 3 — $699 (no contract)
A smartphone for those who love a large screen. Paired with the S Pen (stylus) you can write notes, draw on maps or edit photos without relying on your fingers. It will also transcribe your handwriting into text.

Sony 4K Ultra HDTV — $4,499.99
Help someone build the ultimate man cave with Sony's latest television that boasts four times the resolution of HDTV. This TV up-converts HD video into 4K resolution, which is handy since true 4K content is quite limited. Gamers will love the feature that allows two player games with no split screen. You can also control this TV with your smartphone.

Samsung Galaxy Gear — $329.99
Wearable technology is finally here. Pair it with select Samsung smartphones to receive notifications of incoming emails and texts. Make phone calls from your watch or snap pictures and record video with the built-in camera.

Dyson Hard — $349.99
Vacuums may not seem like a great gift, but this vacuum breaks all the rules. This high-tech, cordless Dyson Hard is specifically designed for cleaning hard flooring. Using dual suction channels, it sucks up debris as it removes grime using a wet wipe in a single action. Wet wipes are sold separately.

HP Envy Recline 23 All-in-One PC — $1,350 US
Use it like a regular desktop PC in the upright position, or recline the monitor flat and use it as a large tablet. The 10-point touchscreen ensures you will get the most out of Windows 8 while the integrated Beats Audio speakers with subwoofer will provide rich, dynamic sound for those who want more out of their computer.

HP Envy Recline 23 All-in-One PC — $1,350 US

Panasonic Lumix GM1 — $749.99 US
The world's smallest Micro Four Thirds camera to date. Fashionable design, yet loaded with features. Budding photographers will love the intelligent assistance that will help you take the perfect photo, while experienced shutterbugs can take advantage of full manual controls. Built-in Wi-Fi makes sharing those memories even easier.

Panasonic Lumix GM1 — $749.99 US, clockwise, from left, FitBit Force — $129.99, Samsung Galaxy Note 3 — $699 (no contract), Dyson Hard — $349.99, and Sony 4K Ultra HD TV — $4,499.99.

Mastercraft Multi-Purpose Tool Set and Bag, $66.99, available at Canadian Tire, canadiantire.ca.

Holiday handymen

DeWalt 10 Amp Reciprocating Saw, $119, available at Home Depot, homedepot.ca.

Black & Decker Matrix System, $99 for the 12V battery version, available at Canadian Tire, canadiantire.ca.

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The greatest stories of the season

MICHELLE WILLIAMS
For Metro

Do you remember your parents reading you a beloved holiday story? If you are on the lookout for a great book to share with your family this year, try one of these festive favourites and classics, recommended by Robin Tameshtit, director of kids and teen print at Indigo.

Gather the family around the tree and a fire and read some classic holiday tales to create memorable moments. COLOURBOX

Elf On The Shelf

This fun Christmas advent game and story will help build holiday excitement. It's become an instant favourite with a dedicated fan following and loads of Christmas magic. (Carol Aebersold, $34.99, Zibbers Inc.).

How The Grinch Stole Christmas

This perennial classic is fantastic to read aloud and has a heartwarming holiday message about the affects the Christmas spirit can have on even the smallest and coldest of hearts. (Dr. Seuss, $18.99, Random House of Canada).

The Night Before Christmas

This enduring classic is brought to life by the signature plasticine art of Canadian favourite Barbara Reid. A perfectly adorable take on the Christmas Eve tale. (Clement Moore, $19.99, Scholastic Book Services).

Scaredy Squirrel Prepares For Christmas

A quirky, fun-filled guide of practical tips and nutty step-by-step instructions to help readers prepare for Christmas — being prepared is so much fun with the adorable Scaredy Squirrel. (Melanie Watt, $18.95, University of Toronto Press).

Olivia Helps With Christmas

The fabulous, dramatic piglet is back and ready to help out with the holidays in the way only this adorable pig can. Sure to bring about giggling and holiday cheer in this board book edition. (Ian Falconer, $9.99, Simon & Schuster Canada).

Polar Express

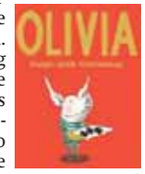
Winner of the 1986 Caldecott Medal, it's the story of a boy's magical train ride to the north pole on Christmas Eve to receive a special gift from Santa. A guaranteed holiday favourite. (Chris Van Allsburg, $23.95, Thomas Allen & Son Ltd.).

Night Before Christmas — 10th Anniversary

This loved Christmas classic poem comes to life in this perfect edition that you will read with your family year after year. Includes stunning illustrations by Christian Birmingham. (Clement C. Moore, $11.50, Perseus Distribution).

Peanuts — A Charlie Brown Christmas

A no-fail classic to share with an excellent dose of nostalgia. Read along with Charlie Brown in his heartwarming quest to uncover the true meaning of Christmas with Snoopy, Linus, and friends. (Charles M. Schulz, $21.00, Perseus Distribution).



Porcupine In A Pine Tree Gift Set

A Canadian version of the 12 Days of Christmas, complete with fun rhymes and adorable illustrations. The deluxe box set comes with an adorably huggable plush porcupine. (Helaine Becker, $24.99, Scholastic Book Services).

That's Not My Snowman

Delightfully wintery, this board book is great for the littlest revellers. Combines colourful illustrations with a variety of different textures to touch and feel. (F. Watt, $11.95, Penguin Canada Books Inc.).

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Fluffy Owl Ornament,$5, available at Canadian Tire, canadiantire.ca.

Glass word votives, $19.99, available at Target, target.ca.

Wood Nutcracker Centrepiece, $3.99, available at Target, target.ca.

20-inch Red Cranberry Wreath, $34.99, available at Canadian Tire, canadiantire.ca.

Deco bird, $2.99, available at Bouclair Home, bouclair.com.

Penquin Snow Globe, $19.50, available at Indigo, indigo.ca

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Lole Lozere Tank Top, $50, available at Sporting Life, sportinglife.ca.

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Lululemon Sweat Once a Day Bag, $128, available at Lululemon, lululemon.com.

Canada Goose HyBridge Lite Vest, $325, available at canadagoose.com.

Adidas by Stella McCartney Quarter-Zip Run Performance Hoodie, $120, available at Sporting Life, sportinglife.ca.

Lululemon Practice Daily Pant, $98, available at Lululemon, lululemon.com.

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Go green with your wrapping this season. SYDA PRODUCTIONS/SHUTTERSTOCK

Green for the season. Wrapping with scrap

MICHELLE WILLIAMS
For Metro

Feeling eco-minded about your festive gift wrap? No one likes to see all that expensive paper filling up the trash.

So go green this season and try some of these ideas, compiled with the help of Toronto-based eco crafts expert Mona Dhanjal, and wrap with scrap.

• Turn an old book into a fancy reusable gift box by carving out the pages with a utility knife. Then line it with felt and glue on some old holiday cards.

• Glue old photos or postcards to bags, boxes or paper to make unique wrap or gift tags with a personal touch. Trim with fancy edges using pinking shears.

• Paint an old suitcase festive colours, glue on travel stickers or a festive scene cut out of old holiday wrap or cards, and tie on a shipping tag and a big red bow. Fill it with hard-to-wrap gifts. Doubles as perfect storage for holiday ornaments.

• Turn leftover wallpaper into beautiful origami boxes. You can get easy instructions online.

• Bits of felt can be used to make gift tags or little pouches and envelopes.

• Wrap in burlap. It's biodegradable, it looks great and it's reusable.

• Sew or knit a handy reusable tote bag from bits of cloth with holiday designs, velvet and lace.

• Fill a pretty wicker basket with gift items and dress it up with a bow — no need to wrap.

• Instead of holiday gift wrap, wrap using other scrap paper such as old magazines, sheet music, maps or calendars.

• Embellish gifts with items found in nature, like berry sprigs, pinecones, or springs of greenery.

• Wire miniature orphaned ornaments and beads together to add luxe to a simple gift tag.

• Crumple, iron and pleat used tissue paper, then layer it on gift boxes or bags.

• Wrap a gift in a holiday scarf or a cloth napkin, which can be used later to line a bread basket on a holiday table.

• Get the kids to decorate white or brown kraft paper with stamps, stickers or holiday themed cut-outs from old gift cards or wrap. Or create artwork to use as wrap.

More tips

- Recycle gift tags from year to year.
- Raffia or string looks just as pretty as ribbon.
- Eliminate tape if you are going to recycle paper.

Pets shouldn't be surprise gifts

JANE DOUCET
For Metro

If you are thinking about giving a pet to someone this holiday season, it's best if it isn't a surprise. Whether you plan to adopt from a rescue group or shelter or buy from a breeder or pet store, the general guidelines are the same.

"We do adopt out dogs and cats successfully during our annual Home for the Holidays program, but we don't allow them to be adopted as surprise gifts," said Sandra Flemming, the director of animal care for the Nova Scotia SPCA.

Before an animal can be adopted from the SPCA during the holidays, everyone who lives in the home must confirm that they are on board — it can't even be a surprise for the kids.

Getting the entire family's consent lowers the chances that the animal will be returned to the shelter because someone is allergic or afraid of it. It also means the adopters will have discussed up front whether they can afford a pet and have the time and energy to take care of it.

For those who know a friend or relative who wants to adopt an SPCA animal, a gift certificate is ideal.

"It allows the person to choose their own pet when the time is right," Flemming said.

One of the most important things to decide is which type of animal will suit your lifestyle.

"Cats and kittens are less work for busy people than dogs and puppies," Flemming said.

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Give her glowing holiday glam

JANINE FALCON
For Metro

Wonderful makeup and skin care treats for the ladies on your gift list.

Formula X for Sephora, The Twenty-Two. A comprehensive starter set of Sephora's new line of cream, bright and chrome polishes and fantastical top coats for every nail colour enthusiast. $66 at Sephora and sephora.ca.

Benefit Cosmetics Advent Calendar. Twenty-four days of adorable makeup minis. $79 at Sephora.

Philosophy Festive Favorites Skincare Gift Set. A genius way to give greatest-hits skin care. $94 ($150 value) at Sephora, Hudson's Bay, Shoppers Drug Mart.

Cool-it Caddy Icepops Freezeable Cosmetics Case. Freeze-and-go bag keeps sunscreen and lipstick from melting as you lounge for hours on that tropical beach. $23.95, plus shipping, at TheShoppingChannel.com.

Make Up For Ever Artisan Makeup Brushes. Beautifully constructed, innovative professional tools five years in the making. Double-Ended Sculpting Brush 158, and Medium Paint Brush 412. $61 and $49 at Sephora.

Michael Kors Beauty. Launched this fall, covetable cosmetics from jet-set leisure-wear designer Kors. From $20 to $55 at Hudson's Bay.

NARS Fling Lip Kit. Two signature sheer lipsticks and mini Velvet Matte Lip Pencils plus a keepsake lacquered lip case that blows a kiss to legendary '70s fashion photographer Guy Bourdin. $55 at Hudson's Bay, Holt Renfrew, Murale and narscosmetics.ca.

Smashbox Wonder Vision Mega Palette. A silky array of shadow, blush and bronzer in a variety of finishes plus professional how-to tips. $58 at Shoppers Drug Mart, Murale, Sephora and smashbox.com.

Luxe Lipsticks. Beautiful, elegant lipsticks to up the stocking-stuffer game. **Tom Ford Lip Color Shine,** $55 at Holt Renfrew (full beauty line finally in Canada). **Giorgio Armani Rouge Ecstacy Lipstick,** $38 at Holt Renfrew, select Hudson's Bay and Sephora locations.

Conair Curl Secret. The latest in nifty hair-curling technology — seeing is believing. $119 at Shoppers Drug Mart and Walmart.

Live Clean Spa Therapy Body Moisturizing Set. Eco-friendly indulgence with spa-fresh shower gel, body lotion and body butter; shower puff included. $19 at Rexall and Loblaws.

Michael Kors Beauty, clockwise, from left, Formula X for Sephora The Twenty-Two, NARS Fling Lip Kit, Conair Curl Secret, Live Clean Spa Therapy Body Moisturizing Set, Make Up For Ever Artisan Makeup Brushes, Tom Ford Lip Color Shine and Giorgio Armani Rouge Ecstacy Lipstick, Benefit Cosmetics Advent Calendar, and Philosophy Festive Favorites Skincare Gift Set.

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Gather all ye around a video game

MIKE YAWNEY
For Metro

Video games continue to be a hot holiday gift for both young and old. Here are some of the top titles for all ages this holiday season.

The Last of Us — PS3
This character-driven action adventure is easily one of the best games for the Playstation 3 this year. A virus spreads across the U.S., turning the population into deadly abominations. An unlikely duo must make their way across a post-pandemic U.S. in the unlikely hope of bringing it all to an end. While the game is amazing, the language and fright factor means mature gamers only.

Beyond: Two Souls — PS3
An incredible psychological action-thriller featuring the voices of Canada's own Ellen Page, along with William Dafoe. A young women possesses supernatural powers through a psychic link to an invisible entity. This game is completely different from any other on the market. Features incredible storytelling, playing out more as a movie than an action game.

Grand Theft Auto 5 — Xbox 360, PS3
Take on the role of three criminals in the latest instalment of this controversial franchise. GTA 5 features one of the largest and diverse open worlds to discover. Fight rival street gangs, pull off dramatic heists or simply explore the vast city of Los Santos. This groundbreaking series is filled with violence and coarse language so don't even consider purchasing this for youngsters. Mature gamers only.

Super Mario 3D World — Wii U
The perfect game to play as a family. Super Mario 3D World is the first 3D Mario for Nintendo's Wii U console. Play as Mario, Luigi, Princess Peach or Toad as you overcome wildly creative obstacles. Get ready for new power-ups like the cat suit and, of course, new never-seen-before enemies like sand Goombas.

Far Cry 3 — Xbox 360, PS3
Stranded in a tropical paradise and fighting to survive, Far Cry 3 brings incredible game play with one of the most memorable villains. Explore an island full of secrets and use the environment to craft items and weapons to help you survive.

Assassin's Creed IV: Black Flag — Multiple consoles
Take the helm of your ship and live the life of a pirate. Explore open waters and dive for treasure in this historical action-adventure featuring many figures from the golden age of piracy. This franchise has been a favourite, and the latest instalment looks absolutely gorgeous.

Batman Arkham Origins — Xbox 360, PS3
Taking place before the rise of Gotham's most dangerous villains and assassins, this game features a young Batman still in the early stages of his career as a crime fighter. This title introduces the notorious villains Batman will find himself fighting for years to come. A must-have for comic book lovers on your list.

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Cookies and butterscotch sauce are included in chef Michael Smith's holiday gift basket. NATHAN ROCHFORD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Gift baskets can help teach spirit of giving

Michael Smith wants his children to understand that the Christmas season is about using their time and talent to bring joy to others.

The Canadian chef has been assembling baskets of mainly foodie gifts to give to close family members and friends for about a decade, and putting them together has evolved into an activity that he and his children enjoy together.

"I think the spirit of these baskets is teaching your kids that giving is more important than receiving," he said in a telephone interview from Fortune, P.E.I. "I know that's where the whole idea started for me was years ago, just frustrated with all the stuff flowing one way into the house for the kids and not necessarily feeling like they were engaged with the giving side of things and really trying to figure out a way for them to create a tradition."

Making a basket for someone you care about is personal and perhaps easier in some ways than braving the shops. It can be tailored to the person and your economic situation and need not be expensive.

Smith puts six to eight items in each basket and makes up about 25 of them for close friends and family, then delivers them just before Christmas.

"Anybody can go out and spend 100 bucks and buy some fancy new cookbook or something for your kitchen or some nameless whatever, some anonymous sort of gift — maybe it's special, maybe it's well thought out, but you know what I mean," he said.

"There's nothing more precious than giving your time, than giving your talent."

Smith will be seen as a judge on Chopped Canada, premiering on Food Network Canada Jan. 2, and currently hosts the instructional cooking series Chef Michael's Kitchen. He has also hosted The Inn Chef, Chef at Home, Chef at Large and Chef Abroad, so it's not surprising that his baskets take on a food theme, but he says they can be tailored to the interests of the giver or recipient.

Each basket always contains a handmade ornament created by him and his children. Gabe, 11, and Ariella, 5, play an active role, and Smith expects one-year-old Camille will take part in the future.

They often use different coloured clays and bake them into shapes, such as snowmen, wreaths or Christmas trees. Last year it was a small box gift-wrapped with ribbons.

"We know we have friends who can look at their tree and see six, seven, eight years worth of ornaments that the kids have made for them. It's pretty cool."

"I also like to include what I call the foodie find," says Smith, who led the team of chefs that cooked at the Whistler athletes village during the 2010 Vancouver Olympic Games and helped make the Canada Summer Games athletes village a junk-food-free zone.

"Over the run of the year I run into a lot of really cool food items and some of them really stick out and are so good that I really feel like sharing them with my friends."

This year he has chosen Cherry Lane concentrated tart cherry juice from Ontario's Niagara region. A personalized dark chocolate bar sprinkled with sea salt and nicknamed The Islander is a nod to Smith's role as food ambassador for P.E.I. will be included.

"And then outside the world of food I like to do a gag gift in there every year, something silly. This year it's actually going to be candy insects. We found earlier this year a company that sells five different cans of canned insect protein, like a can full of crickets sort of thing. Totally edible, totally legit."

For anyone contemplating making up gift baskets, Smith recommends visiting a craft store for inexpensive baskets, fun labels and other decorations.

"Keep it simple and really understand that first and foremost you're giving yourself and you're giving your time and it doesn't need to meet that sort of over-the-top standard of Martha Stewart or the pictures you see in the magazines," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Personal touch

"Keep it simple and really understand that first and foremost you're giving yourself and you're giving your time and it doesn't need to meet that sort of over-the-top standard of Martha Stewart or the pictures you see in the magazines."

Chef Michael Smith

18+

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GIFTS OF HOPE: WHEN GIVING IS RECEIVING

Two years ago, Ginger and Scott McClelland decided to see if they could make Christmas a little bit more about giving than receiving. After going through a Gifts of Hope catalogue they had received in the mail, the Ottawa couple chose baby chicks to give to all of their grandchildren.

Gifts of Hope are ethical gifts, which means they give twice — here and abroad. Ginger and Scott felt these gifts were the perfect way to introduce a special kind of holiday giving to their grandchildren. Once the four children, who ranged in age from 10 to 14, had opened the gift card with the picture of a fluffy baby chick on the front, Ginger and Scott explained how the chicks would help support a family in Africa.

"And the kids got very excited very quickly about the gift," Ginger says. "The youngest, Emma, even sent a letter to Santa Claus asking him to make sure the gift got to the family on time."

But the best part of the story was yet to come.

When Christmas came around the following year, the adults in the family agreed that they would exchange Gifts of Hope. However, during the gift exchange the really big surprise was that the four kids had decided that they would exchange Gifts of Hope with each other as well.

"All in all, I think we gave 12 Gifts of Hope, ranging from newborn checkup and a bed net to chicks, a goat, three hens and a rooster," Ginger says. "Our gift to each other was literacy training for two women.

"Sometimes you look at what happens at Christmas and think 'we may be missing the whole point,'" Scott says. "But it was a very emotional and special Christmas last year, and I was incredibly proud of my family."

Gifts of Hope provided everyone in the McClelland family a wonderful way to help make someone else's life a little better and to feel good about it.

"Gifts of Hope really are a unique gift-giving opportunity," says Sangita Patel, director of program management at Plan Canada.

"For people who purchase a gift, it's a way to give a socially conscious gift and to avoid crowded malls. For the recipient, the gift is contributing to important work overseas. For the children of the community that receives the gift, it's about changing and improving their lives."

Plan Canada is one of the world's oldest and largest international development agencies. Founded in 1937, it works in 69 countries and more than 90,000 communities around the world. Gifts of Hope is Plan Canada's increasingly popular year-round ethical giving program, especially popular during the holiday period.

For parents — and grandparents like the McClellands — a Gift of Hope is a great tool to very gently and in a positive way expose children to what life is like for other children in other places, Patel says.

"They provide such a nice teachable moment for kids amidst the holiday rush."

Gifts of Hope support Plan Canada programs in the areas of education, health, clean water, and livelihoods. Fifteen of the gifts are also designated as "Because I am a Girl" gifts, which go to support the work Plan does that directly benefits girls and women.

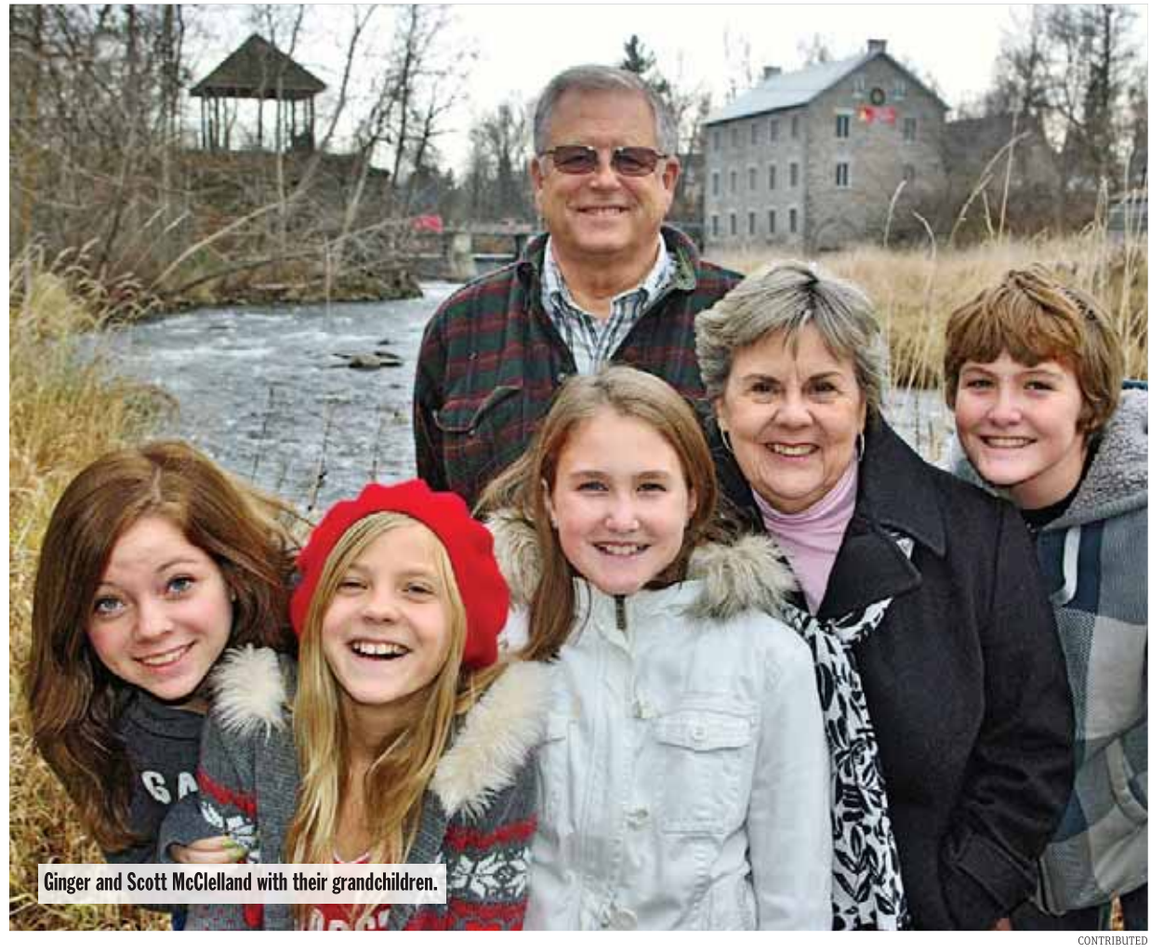
"These gifts help to unleash the power of girls and women to create a brighter, safer future for girls in the developing world," Patel says.

Gifts suit any budget, ranging in price from $10 for anti-malaria bed nets to $75 for a goat to $1,000 for water and sanitation for communities. Sometimes the dollar value of the gift is matched by a government, foundation or corporate partner for even more impact.

"It's a great way to show care for what's happening in other places," Patel says. "And to show children how one gift can make lives better for other kids and families."

One of the McClelland's grandchildren, Ben, 14, says that the Gift of Hope chicks seemed "kind of weird" at first.

"But after I learned more about it, it felt like you could really help other people, and it was nice to be giving something rather than always just getting a lot."



Ginger and Scott McClelland with their grandchildren.

CONTRIBUTED

REAL GIFTS THAT CHANGE REAL LIVES

In all, there are 42 Gifts of Hope to choose from, ranging in price from $10 to $50,000. Every gift comes with a free greeting card or e-card, and 26 of the gifts are matched by government, foundation or organizational partners. Here are some examples:

- Bed nets, $10 (matched for a $70 value)
- School essentials for one child, $17 (matched for a $119 value)
- Birth certificate, $25 (matched for $125 value)
- Newborn checkup, $30 (matched for a $120 value)
- Clean water for families, $75 (matched for $225 value)
- Literacy training for two women, $120 (matched for $600 value)
- Farm load of animals, $190 (matched for a $760 value)
- Help orphaned children affected by HIV, $75 (matched for a $1,200 value)

To see more Gifts of Hope or to place an order, visit plangifts.com or call 1-800-387-1418.

Think outside the gift box

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Founded in 1937, Plan is one of the world's oldest and largest charities working to end global poverty. Inclusive of all faiths and cultures, Plan has only one purpose: to improve the lives of children.

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THE ANATOMY OF AN EMERGENCY

Less than two months ago, super typhoon Haiyan roared towards the eastern islands of the Philippines with winds upwards of 275 kilometres per hour and no one could have imagined the destruction and despair it would leave behind.

With many lives lost, whole villages destroyed, and millions of people left homeless, here is how the relief plan for this large-scale emergency came together, and the important role that UNICEF and UNICEF donors play. UNICEF is the world's leading child-focused humanitarian organization.

MAITEM UNICEF PHOTO

THE DAMAGE

"There were cars on top of uprooted trees, concrete buildings smashed down, and whole communities of shanty towns just gone," says Ken Page of UNICEF, who arrived in Tacloban a few days after the typhoon. "Everything was knocked down and flattened, debris was everywhere, it looked like a bomb had gone off.

"You have some communities where you could say, literally, everybody needs everything," says Page, who is strategic communication adviser, emergencies, at UNICEF headquarters in New York. "These people have lost loved ones, their homes, their jobs. There's nothing left."

Many hundreds of families are living at evacuation points, which are safe structures such as schools, churches, etc.

VALCARCEL SILVELA UNICEF PHOTO

EFFORTS AT WORK

Thanks to UNICEF's efforts in the Philippines:

- 428,000 people now have access to safe drinking water;
- A mass vaccination campaign is underway, reaching more than 30,000 children;
- 19 child-friendly spaces have been opened across the affected islands;
- 10,000 children have been provided with school and play supplies;
- Nearly 25,000 people have been provided with hygiene equipment and sanitation services.

IMMEDIATE HELP

UNICEF is part of the global response system that focused on emergency life-saving during the first few days. Having been in the Philippines since 1967, UNICEF's prepositioned supplies were critical to a quick response providing sanitation equipment to curb an outbreak of disease. At the same time, the entire UNICEF organization was mobilized and 165 emergency experts were dispatched to the most affected areas including Tacloban, Roxas City and Cebu. UNICEF's massive supply depot and division in Copenhagen also started to air lift in supplies.

CLEAN WATER

Within the first week, UNICEF helped to restore a large water treatment plant that was operating at 20 per cent capacity.

"As soon as it came on, you had 30,000 water points in Tacloban and surrounding communities operating at full capacity again," Page says. "This was important for hygiene and well-being, but you also saw kids playing and splashing at a couple of these water points. That was important, too."

HEALTH

UNICEF is a lead partner in the emergency polio and measles vaccination campaign.

"We are vaccinating 30,000 children under the age of five and providing vitamin A supplements to help boost their immunity against diseases," Page says.

IT'S EASY TO DO SOMETHING GREAT

The recovery process in the Philippines has just started. Here is how donations can help.

- $1 per day for a year ($30.42 per month) can buy exercise books for 700 children as well as pencils for a whole school.
- 75 cents per day for a year ($22.81 per month) can provide special water kits for 20 families, giving them access to safe drinking water during the rebuilding.
- 50 cents per day for a year ($15.21 per month) can safeguard 507 children from the devastating effects of measles and tetanus.
- A $50 or $100 Urgent Aid for Philippines Survival Gift will provide life-changing nutrition, education, protection and relief to the children whose needs are the most critical.

The Government of Canada will continue to match donations from Canadians to UNICEF Canada dollar for dollar, up to $100,000 per individual, up to Dec. 23. Sign up for a monthly donation before Dec. 23 and that amount will be matched.

To make a donation, please visit unicef.ca/haiyan or call 1-877-3111.

NUTRITION

UNICEF has screened about 20,000 children for nutritional deficiencies and there are still many to do, Page says. Any child found to be malnourished is enrolled in supplementary feeding programs.

SANITATION

UNICEF helped get Porta Potties to many of the evacuation centres for hygiene, well-being and dignity, Page says.

EDUCATION

With 90 per cent — more than 3,000 — of schools damaged or destroyed in the affected areas, UNICEF has helped to provide critical learning spaces for children by setting up tent schools. Returning to school is an important way to help children feel a sense of normalcy after a disaster.

CHILD PROTECTION

UNICEF helped create child-friendly spaces at different evacuation centres and supplied them with education and recreational kits. "These are safe places to be with other children playing and laughing again," Page says.

FUTURE HELP

"It will take years for the Philippines to recover and we really have to help them build back better," Page says.

Contributions over the coming months are critical to UNICEF being able to respond, he says. "And I wouldn't call them donations. They're really making an investment in the children of the Philippines."

PHILIPPINES EMERGENCY:
CHILDREN IN CRISIS

ACT NOW. DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT UNTIL DECEMBER 23.

Thanks to the generosity of the Government of Canada, any amount donated to UNICEF Canada by December 23, 2013, will be matched dollar for dollar, up to $100,000 per individual.

WITH YOUR SUPPORT:

- **560,000 people** have access to safe drinking water.
- **31,000 children** have received tents, books, pencils and soccer balls.
- **52 child friendly spaces** have been opened, giving **10,000 children** a place to learn and play.
- A mass vaccination campaign has reached **10,000 children** in Tacloban.

Online: **unicef.ca/haiyan**

Call: **1 877 955 3111**

Text: **GIVE** to **45678** to donate $10

unicef canada

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☐ Cheque, made payable to **UNICEF Canada: Philippines Emergency**

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ American Express

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Liquid Assets

Whites that like variety

LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
liquidassets@easttlink.ca

As sure as Rudolph was a reindeer, you're going to feel some level of stress over the holidays — possibly when choosing a wine to match with your family feast.

Since Charles was a little Dickens, turkey has been the headliner. Unfortunately, the bird never travels alone. It's always surrounded by sweet and savoury sides that can throw a curve ball at even the most accommodating wine match.

If you're a white wine fan, think sparkling. A fresh bubbly is the great equalizer, pairing with just about everything (even if you decide on red meat or seafood this Xmas).

The classic turkey-meets-stuffing-meets-cranberry scenario that will play out on most tables is a lover of full-bodied chardonnay. Try one with a touch of oaky goodness from Australia, Chile, Canada or California.

Whites with a hint of residual sugar like savoury and sweet. The balanced, juicy fruit of Moselland's 2012 Ars Vitis Riesling ($9.95 - $16.99) is a guaranteed crowd pleaser that looks as good as it tastes.

Next week: My red picks. **PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.**

This recipe serves six. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fancy doesn't have to mean complicated

Spinach-stuffed Chicken Thighs. This dish makes it possible to dazzle guests without much effort

1. In skillet over medium heat, wilt spinach until reduced. Let cool until easily handled, then squeeze moisture from spinach. Finely chop. You should have about 1/3 cup. Set aside.

2. Using paring knife, remove skin and bone from 2 chicken thighs. Place them in food processor and pulse until finely chopped. Add ice and process until absorbed. Add sour cream and pulse again until well mixed. Add spinach, 1/2 teaspoon salt, fennel, lemon zest, nutmeg and 1/8 teaspoon black pepper. Pulse, scraping down sides, until mixed. Set aside.

3. Arrange remaining thighs on cutting board, skin side up. Carefully pull back skin, leaving attached on one end. Divide ground chicken and spinach mixture evenly between 6 thighs, spreading it evenly. Stretch skin back over filling on each thigh. Arrange stuffed thighs on plate, cover with plastic wrap and chill for at least 1 hour and up to overnight.

4. When ready to cook, heat the oven to 400 F. In oven-safe skillet over medium-high, heat the oil. Season chicken skin lightly with salt and pepper, then add the chicken to the skillet, skin side down. Cook until skin is golden brown, then use tongs to turn thighs skin side up. Place skillet in the oven and roast for 25 minutes, or until the thighs reach 160 F.

5. Remove skillet from the oven and cover with foil. Let rest 5 minutes before transferring each thigh to serving plate. Spoon any juices from skillet over the thighs before serving. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ SARA MOULTON'S EVERYDAY FAMILY DINNERS.**

Ingredients

- 5 oz baby spinach
- 2 lbs skin-on, bone-in chicken thighs (8 thighs)
- 2 tbsp crushed ice
- 1/3 cup low-fat sour cream
- Kosher salt
- 1/2 tsp fennel seeds, crushed
- 1 tsp grated lemon zest
- 1/8 tsp grated nutmeg
- Ground black pepper
- 1 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil

Give your green beans Italian flare

1. In nonstick frying pan, heat oil and 1 tsp (5 ml) of the butter over medium heat until butter melts. Add shallots, salt and sugar. Cook, stirring frequently, 10 minutes or until golden brown and caramelized. If necessary, add 1 tbsp (15 ml) of water to prevent sticking. Stir in balsamic vinegar. Cook 30 seconds or until reduced; set aside.

2. Meanwhile, in pot of boiling salted water, cook beans for 3 to 5 minutes or until tender-crisp. Drain well. Return to pot; toss with remaining 2 tsp (10 ml) butter until butter is melted and beans are coated. Stir in shallot mixture until combined. Transfer to serving dish; sprinkle with shaved Parmigiano. **COURTESY PRESIDENT'S CHOICE**

Ingredients

- 1 tbsp (15 ml) virgin olive oil
- 3 tsp (15 ml) unsalted butter
- 1 pkg (250 g) shallots, peeled and sliced lengthwise
- Pinch salt
- Pinch granulated sugar
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) PC Splendido Balsamic Vinegar Of Modena 2 Leaves
- 1 pkg (340 g) green beans
- 1/4 cup (50 ml) shaved PC Splendido Parmigiano Reggiano

Green Beans with Caramelized Shallots

This recipe serves four. PRESIDENT'S CHOICE

High-performance sport

COC makes a splash with cash to OTP

The Canadian Olympic Committee has made a record cash injection into high-performance sport.

COC president Marcel Aubut pledged $37 million Thursday to Own the Podium over the next four years. The contribution between 2013-16 is a 48 per cent increase from the previous four years, a quadrennial that included the 2010 Vancouver Olympic Games.

The additional funding "allows us to continue to provide critical technical and financial support to athletes and national sport organizations that are poised for podium success," said Anne Merklinger, CEO of Own the Podium.

The funding will go toward summer and winter sports.

Canada won a Winter Games-record 14 gold medals in Vancouver, and a total of 18 medals at the 2012 Summer Olympics in London. The COC's goal for Sochi is to improve on the medal count from 2010, and finish at the top of the table for overall medals.

OTP determines and prioritizes funding for national sport organizations with the aim of delivering more Olympic and Paralympic medals for Canada.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jon Montgomery won one of Canada's 14 gold medals at the Vancouver Olympics. GETTY IMAGES

Dan Church resigned as head coach of the Canadian women's hockey team on Thursday. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Head coach of women's national team resigns

Hockey. Dan Church says there wasn't confidence in him leading the squad to another Olympic gold

Quoted

"This decision came upon us in the last few hours and we're going to react as quickly as possible."

Hockey Canada's chief operating officer Scott Smith

Dan Church abruptly stepped down as head coach of the Canadian women's hockey team saying he felt others lacked confidence in his ability to win a gold medal at the Winter Olympics.

Church resigned from the job Thursday less than two months before the opening ceremonies of the Winter Games in Sochi, Russia.

"If there isn't confidence in what I'm doing, I need to step aside and let the team move on," Church told The Canadian Press in a phone interview. "I'm heartbroken, to be honest, about the whole situation."

He did not specify whether it was players or Hockey Canada management who questioned his competence.

"Just discussions I'd had over the last few days made that apparent, in some meetings I'd had with leadership," Church said. "I think it was just difference of opinion on the direction we were headed.

"In the end, I just decided if I'm getting in the way of where the team needs to go, I need to step aside and let them continue on in the process."

The move was a bombshell as the 21-player Olympic team was expected to be announced before the end of December. The Canadian women will attempt to win a fourth straight gold medal in Sochi after victories in 2002, 2006 and 2010.

Canada is coming off a loss in the final of this year's world championship to the U.S.

The Canadian women have been training full time in Calgary since August in preparation for the Olympics. Canada was riding a three-game winning streak against archrival U.S. heading into Thursday night's game between the two countries in Calgary.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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CFL

Wave of change hits CFL in 2014

A new team, new stadiums and new rivalries are just some of the things that await football fans, with the 2014 CFL season promising more changes than any in recent years.

The season just finished may have had a storybook ending for the Saskatchewan Roughriders, who won their fourth Grey Cup on home turf, but it was a challenge for many other teams in the CFL.

The Winnipeg Blue Bombers lived up to their name, bombing big time in their spiffy new stadium as they went 3-15. Even Investors Group Field showed cracks, very literally, and less than a year after it opened, renovations are taking place to the open-air press box so the city can at some point soon host a Grey Cup.

Despite some record-setting performances from quarterback Ricky Ray, the Toronto Argonauts stumbled on their path to earn a return trip to the Grey Cup.

And the Montreal Alouettes got a peek at life without veteran quarterback Anthony Calvillo and it wasn't pretty.

Montreal QB Anthony Calvillo

RICK MADONIK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

But tomorrow is another day and here are a few things expected when the 2014 season gets underway:

Welcome black: The Ottawa RedBlacks will return the CFL to the nation's capital. The CFL has been an eight-team league since the Ottawa Renegades suspended operations before the 2006 season.

Do I hear 10? The CFL is staying Canadian this time, but it doesn't want to stop at nine teams. The league is looking for a 10th host city, perhaps Moncton or Halifax.

Go west young Blue: The return of Ottawa to the CFL allows the Winnipeg Blue Bombers to move back to their historic base in the CFL West Division.

New stadiums: Besides the RedBlacks' remodelled stadium at Lansdowne, the Hamilton Tiger-Cats plan to christen Tim Hortons Field in 2014, after spending a vagabond construction season as tenants of the University of Guelph. The Saskatchewan Roughriders are expecting their new $278-million digs to be football-ready by 2017.

New coaches: The league will see some first-time new head coaches in 2014. Edmonton and Winnipeg both have new coaches in 2014 after finishing seventh and eighth in league standings in 2013. Former Argonauts defensive co-ordinator Chris Jones landed his first CFL head coaching job in Edmonton in late November and the Bombers then tabbed Argos special-teams co-ordinator Mike O'Shea for his first top spot. The Ottawa RedBlacks picked Calgary defensive co-ordinator Rick Campbell to lead their debut in the league.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Team Canada wants second crack at Monahan

Seeing blue too. The national junior team also has its eyes on bringing Maple Leafs defenceman Morgan Reilly back

Canada's national junior team has its eyes on Calgary rookie Sean Monahan again after the Flames shook up their front office Thursday.

They had already been told Monahan would not be loaned for the Dec. 26-Jan. 3 world junior championship, but that was before Flames president of hockey operations Brian Burke fired general manager Jay Feaster.

Scott Salmond, the junior squad's director of hockey operations, said it won't hurt to ask again if the gifted forward is available, even if it may be a long shot.

"A no is a no whether it comes from Brian Burke or Jay," said Salmond. "Out of respect for Brian we'll go back and ask again. I'm sure Brian was part of the original decision. Whether things change or not will be up to the Calgary Flames, but it's worth a try."

The junior team is also hoping to bring Toronto Maple Leafs defenceman Morgan Rielly back for a second world junior tournament, but so far the Leafs have been reluctant to let him go. The NHL club is expected to make a decision by Tuesday.

The juniors have already got rearguard Mathew Dumba from the Minnesota Wild.

Another question hanging as players arrived a few at a time for a three-day camp in Toronto was the health of Halifax Mooseheads star forward Jonathan Drouin, who suffered a concussion last week.

Drouin said he is feeling better and hopes to be cleared by team doctors to skate in camp. He was to be examined Thursday night.

"I want to get on the ice with the guys as soon as possible, but it's my health and I'm not going to push it," said Drouin, who is expected to be a key offensive player for Canada.

Coach Brent Sutter doubts that Drouin will skate this week, but it won't disrupt the team's preparations either way. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"Whether things change or not will be up to the Calgary Flames, but it's worth a try."

Scott Salmond, director of hockey operations for Team Canada's junior team

Sean Monahan of the Calgary Flames celebrates after scoring the game-winning goal against the New Jersey Devils during an NHL game at Scotiabank Saddledome on Oct. 11. DEREK LEUNG/GETTY IMAGES

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Boston	31	21	8	2	86	62	44
Montreal	32	19	10	3	85	71	41
Detroit	32	15	9	8	87	85	38
Tampa Bay	30	17	10	3	85	76	37
Toronto	32	16	13	3	87	90	35
Ottawa	32	12	14	6	92	105	30
Florida	32	10	17	5	73	106	25
Buffalo	31	7	22	2	53	92	16

METROPOLITAN DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Pittsburgh	32	21	10	1	98	71	43
Washington	31	17	12	2	98	90	36
Carolina	32	13	13	6	75	91	32
NY Rangers	32	15	16	1	70	84	31
New Jersey	32	12	14	6	73	82	30
Columbus	31	13	15	3	78	86	29
Philadelphia	31	13	15	3	70	85	29
NY Islanders	32	9	18	5	80	111	23

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Chicago	34	23	6	5	129	93	51
St. Louis	29	20	6	3	100	67	43
Minnesota	33	18	10	5	78	77	41
Colorado	29	20	9	0	83	68	40
Dallas	29	14	10	5	83	86	33
Winnipeg	32	14	14	4	83	90	32
Nashville	31	14	14	3	71	89	31

PACIFIC DIVISION

	GP	W	L	OL	GF	GA	Pt
Anaheim	34	22	7	5	108	87	49
Los Angeles	32	21	7	4	88	63	46
San Jose	31	19	6	6	103	78	44
Vancouver	33	18	10	5	88	81	41
Phoenix	30	17	8	5	97	94	39
Calgary	30	11	15	4	79	100	26
Edmonton	32	11	18	3	89	109	25

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

Thursday's results

Montreal at Philadelphia
Columbus at NY Rangers
Buffalo at Ottawa
Detroit at Tampa Bay
Toronto at St. Louis
Dallas at Nashville
Colorado at Winnipeg
Carolina at Calgary
NY Islanders at Phoenix
Boston at Edmonton
Minnesota at San Jose

Wednesday's results

Los Angeles 3 Toronto 1
Chicago 7 Philadelphia 2
Anaheim 2 Minnesota 1

Friday's games

All Times Eastern

New Jersey at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.
Washington at Florida, 7:30 p.m.
Edmonton at Vancouver, 9 p.m.

Saturday's games

Calgary at Buffalo, 2 p.m.
Los Angeles at Ottawa, 2 p.m.
Dallas at Winnipeg, 3 p.m.
Chicago at Toronto, 7 p.m.
St. Louis at Columbus, 7 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Detroit, 7 p.m.
Tampa Bay at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Montreal at NY Islanders, 7 p.m.
Carolina at Phoenix, 8 p.m.
San Jose at Nashville, 8 p.m.
Minnesota at Colorado, 9 p.m.
Boston at Vancouver, 10 p.m.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	Pts
Crosby, Pgh	16	27	43
Kane, Chi	17	25	42
Getzlaf, Ana	16	22	38
Malkin, Pgh	8	30	38
Perry, Ana	21	15	36
Tavares, NYI	12	24	36
Ovechkin, Wash	26	9	35
Steen, StL	21	12	33
Sharp, Chi	15	17	32
Backstrom, Wash	7	25	32
Thornton, SJ	5	27	32
Kunitz, Pgh	17	14	31
Kessel, Tor	16	14	30
Marleau, SJ	14	16	30
St. Louis, TBL	13	17	30
Zetterberg, Det	11	19	30
Couture, SJ	10	20	30
Toews, Chi	13	16	29

Not including last night's games

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Indiana	19	3	.864	—
d-Miami	16	6	.727	3
Atlanta	11	11	.500	8
d-Boston	10	14	.417	10
Charlotte	10	12	.455	9
Washington	9	11	.450	9
Detroit	10	13	.435	9 1/2
Chicago	8	12	.400	10
Cleveland	8	13	.381	10 1/2
Toronto	7	13	.350	11
Brooklyn	7	14	.333	11 1/2
Orlando	7	15	.318	12
Philadelphia	7	16	.304	12 1/2
New York	6	15	.286	12 1/2
Milwaukee	5	17	.227	14

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
d-Portland	18	4	.818	—
Oklahoma City	17	4	.810	1/2
d-San Antonio	17	4	.810	1/2
d-L.A. Clippers	15	8	.652	3 1/2
Houston	15	7	.682	3
Denver	13	8	.619	4 1/2
Phoenix	12	9	.571	5 1/2
Golden State	13	10	.565	5 1/2
Dallas	13	10	.565	5 1/2
Minnesota	11	11	.500	7
New Orleans	10	10	.500	7
Memphis	10	11	.476	7 1/2
L.A. Lakers	10	11	.476	7 1/2
Sacramento	6	14	.300	11
Utah	5	19	.208	14

x - clinched playoff berth; y - division; z - conference.

Thursday's results

L.A. Clippers at Brooklyn
Houston at Portland

Wednesday's results

Orlando 92 Charlotte 83
L.A. Clippers 96 Boston 88
San Antonio 109 Milwaukee 77
New Orleans 111 Detroit 106 OT
Minnesota 106 Philadelphia 99
New York 83 Chicago 78
Oklahoma City 116 Memphis 100
Utah 122 Sacramento 101
Golden State 95 Dallas 93

There was a mistake in our December 11 & 12, 2013 ads that appeared in the Metro Ottawa.
The correct number and distribution of prizes in the short form contest rules is as follows:

There is a total of 6586 prizes available to be won with 922 prizes available to be won in Quebec; 3168 in Ontario; 1307 in Alberta; 1189 in Vancouver and 1 prize nationally.

HOLT RENFREW

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
A decision you made a long time ago doesn't seem like a great idea now but you're stuck with it. Make the best of the situation and promise yourself you won't be so hasty in future.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Expect your workload to increase a lot over the next 24 hours. That may not sound like good news but at least it shows that important people trust you to get the job done.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
It may seem to others that you never lack confidence but that's not true and as the Sun moves through your opposite sign there will be times of self-doubt. Bite back — hard.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
You will get what you deserve today: no more and no less. Jupiter in your sign links with Saturn in a way that guarantees you get out of life in direct proportion to what you've put in. And you've put in a lot.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You may have to do something that makes you unpopular today but that won't worry you. You know there are times when you have to put duty before pleasure and this is clearly one of them. Do it well.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Saturn may be casting a cloud over money matters but you can still have fun. Besides, if you keep a tight hold of the purse strings now you will have more to spend over the holiday period and party season.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Don't over-extend yourself at work or your energy may take a nose-dive early next week. Today's Jupiter-Saturn link will help you to persuade others to do things for you.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
According to the planets you will do better, both financially and emotionally, if you open up and let friends and family members know how you feel and what it is you need.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Why is it that people are so demanding? Most likely it's because they know you are too nice to say "no". At some stage today you need to get tough and let certain people know they have to do more.

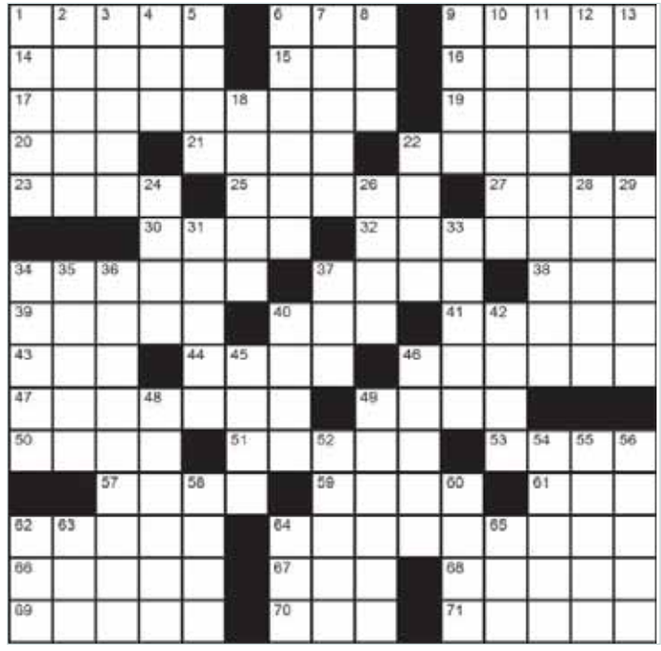
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Your frustration may get the better of you and you will say or do something that gets you noticed for the wrong reason. At least others will be aware that you're not afraid to hit back at provocation.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Accept that you won't get things your way all the time, especially at work where some people seem to take a delight in being unreasonable. It's only a passing phase.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Jupiter and Saturn link across the most favourable angles of your chart today and the most likely outcome is that you will be rewarded for services you have done for others in the past. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

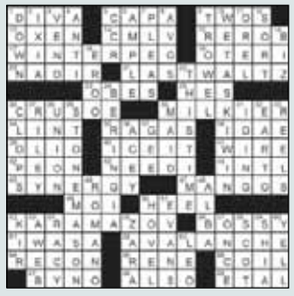
See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. "The Hobbit: The Desolation of __" (2013)
6. Pea's packaging
9. Fearing-one's suffix
14. UNESCO World Heritage Site in Jordan
15. "Do They Know It's Christmas?" co-songwriter Midge
16. Cad
17. Guy __, Cirque du Soleil founder
19. Articulate
20. 'Can' completer
21. Additional
22. Title for a Miss, in Spanish [abbr.]
23. D'Urbervilles heroine
25. Dog collar attachment
27. Man, in Milan
30. Ski lift
32. Hair-off-the-face styles: 2 wds.
34. "Brian's Song" (1971) role, Gale __
37. Insect stage
38. Bronze Roman money
39. Sidekick
40. Paper product
41. "Spider-Man" (2002) director Sam
43. Televise
44. "__ Flux" (2005)
46. President of France's residence, __ Palace
47. Wayne Gretzky team, e.g.: 2 wds.
49. Actress Jessica
50. Stamps spots, shortly
51. "The Sound of Music" (1965) role
53. Rhyming pattern
57. Doctrines
59. Small salmon
61. Kick __ _ fuss
62. Once in _ __ moon
64. BC city
66. "A Madea Christmas" (2013) star Mr. Perry
67. Li'l cartoon 'Devil'
68. Canonical hour
69. Moose, if done how Goose gets pluralized
70. 'Prop' suffix (Fuel)
71. Japan: Global Warming treaty city

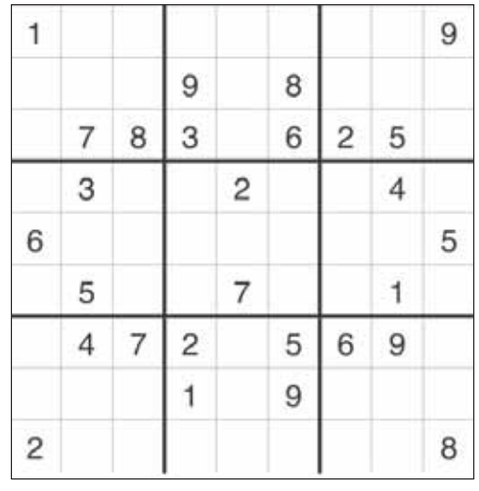
Down
1. Water-balloon-to-ground sound
2. "Morning Express with Robin __" on HLN
3. Rand McNally product
4. William Tell's canton
5. Mr. Kaplan
6. Ship's accountant
7. "Coffee __ __?"
8. Billy __ Williams
9. Not singular [abbr.]
10. "The Bachelor" date site: 2 wds.
11. Region of Quebec near Ottawa
12. Mad Cow Disease letters
13. 'Ballad' suffix
18. Ms. Fitzgerald's
22. Store
24. British WWII submachine gun
26. __ earring
28. Boeotian Muse of memory
29. Actor Mr. Davis
31. Actor Mr. Cranston
33. "I speak French." = "Je __ francais."
34. Weighing need
35. 'Parliament' suffix
36. Stylish area of Toronto
37. Criticize
40. Model
42. The Clan of the Cave Bear heroine
45. Breakfast breakees
46. After __ (Mints)
48. Topics
49. Sculpture material
52. Body of water
54. "Thanks, __ __ thanks!"
55. "You're _ __ and don't even know it!"
56. Nova Scotia's Straight of __
58. Slight
60. Sty cry
62. 24 hr. banker
63. "Farewell."
64. School org.
65. Demure

Yesterday's Crossword

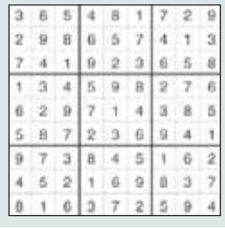


Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.



Yesterday's Sudoku



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